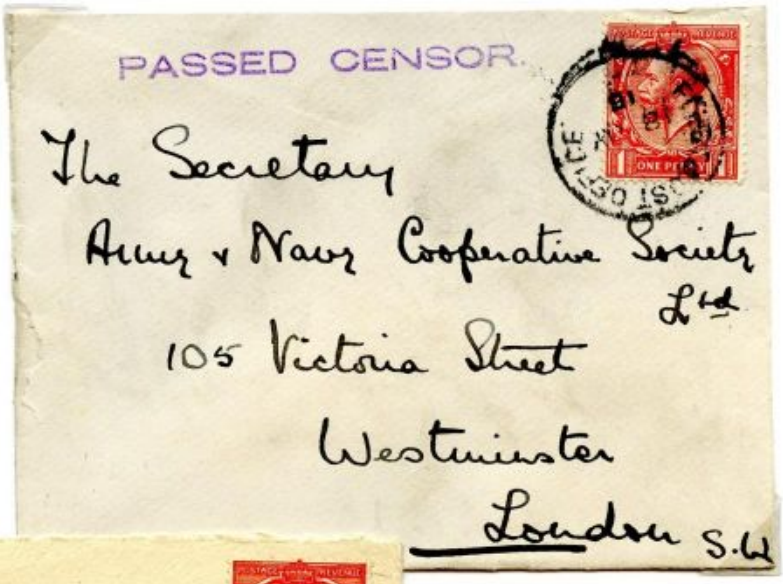
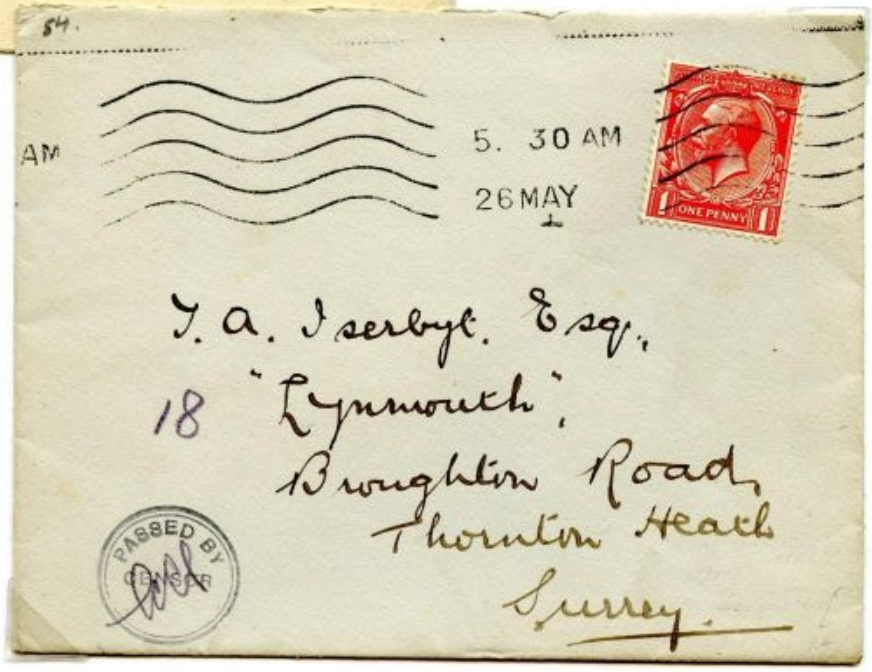
POSTMARKS OF THE ROYAL NAVY, 1914-1919.

This is one of the s/r FLEET POST OFFICE on an item from the destroyer HMS *Sparrowhawk* (censor 4B13), two weeks before she was in action at Jutland. She was engaged by German battleships during the night of May31st-June 1st in company with HMS *Broke* (censor 4A5 below). *Broke* had her helm jammed by enemy fire, and could not avoid colliding with *Sparrowhawk,* immobilising her.

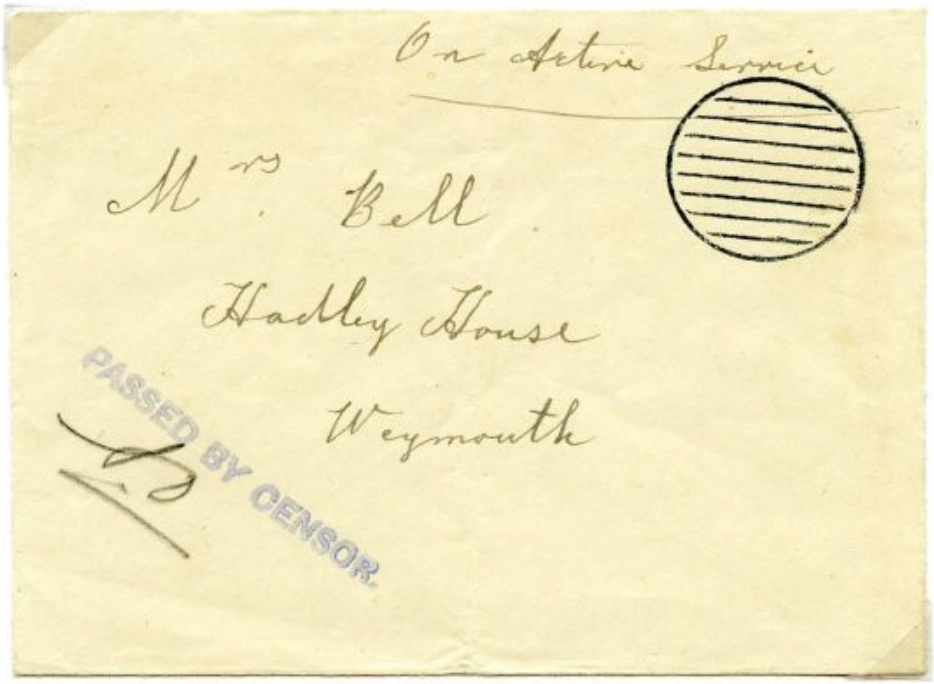


Broke was able to disengage and retire, badly damaged, with 42 dead, and 34 wounded, a significant proportion of the vessel's complement.

Seven hours later, the destroyer HMS *Marksman* (censor 6B45, right) arrived and tried to take *Sparrowhawk* in tow, but failed. After removing survivors, the wreck of the *Sparrowhawk* was sunk by a torpedo from *Marksman*. FPO a Krag, diehead is Gould's MA1 (no FPOa, and no year).

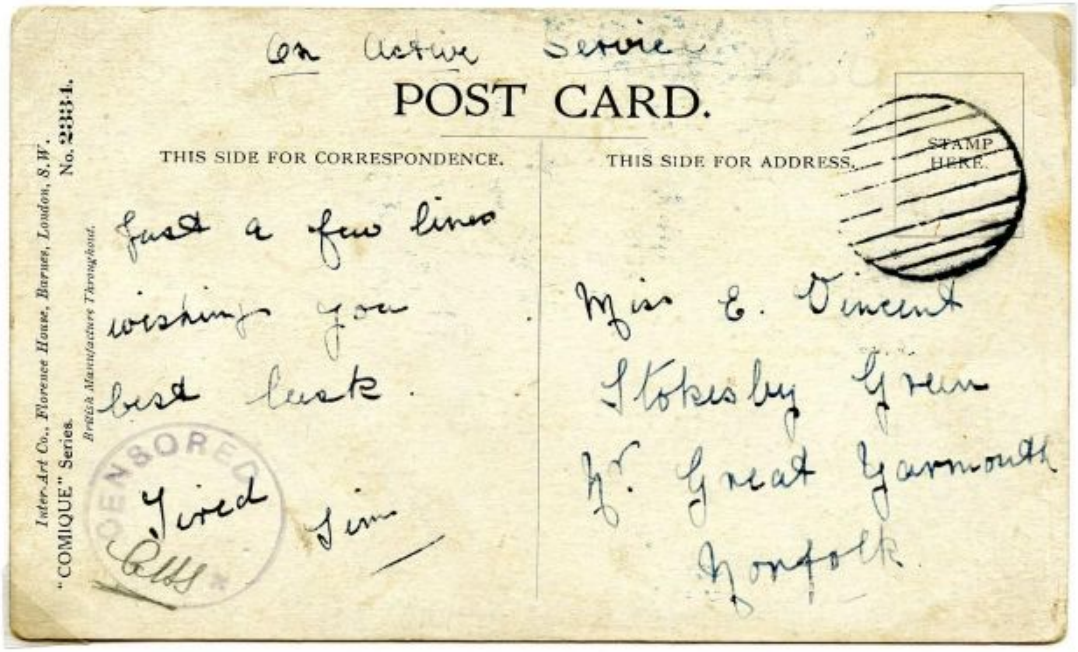


8 bars not touching the edge (DA17) – thought to have been used at several ports:



Censor 4C50 of HMS *Implacable*.

Unevenly-spaced 8 bars (DA16):

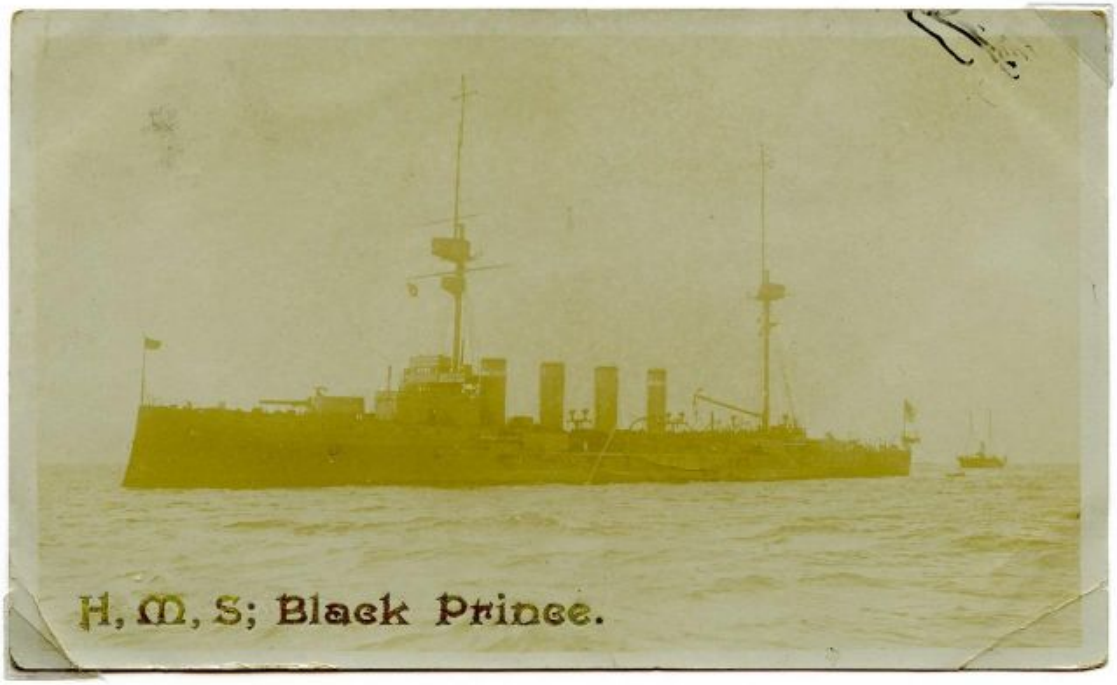


There is some evidence to associate this mark with Invergordon, but it is by no means definitive. Censor is 6D4, with no confident attribution at present.

The FPOa Krag machine postmarks:

From HMS Black Prince, armoured cruiser, destroyed at Jutland (blew up) by German gun fire.

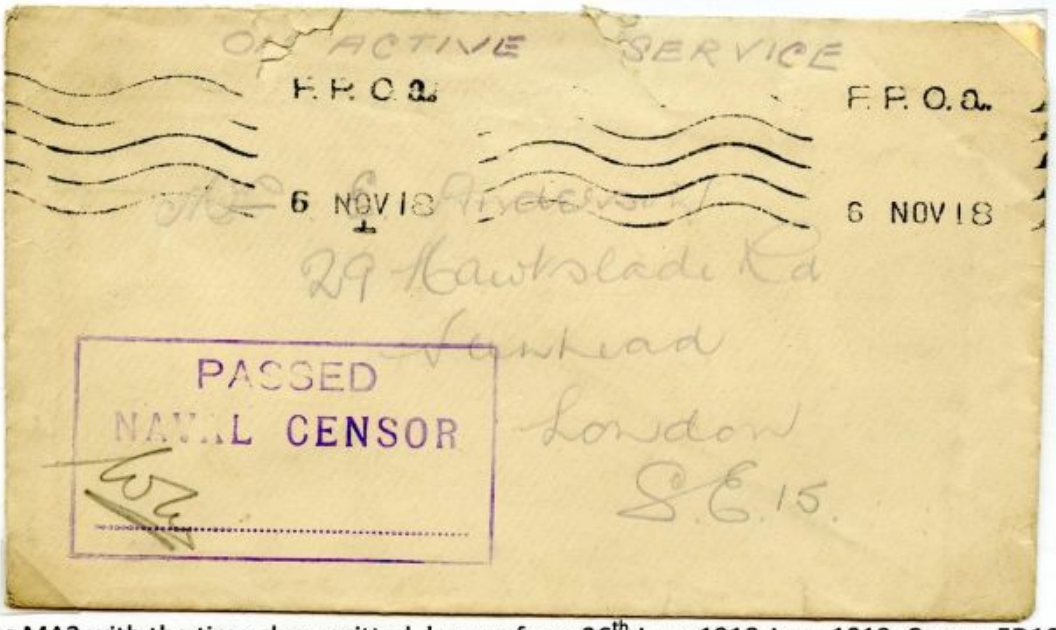
Gould's MA1: continuous wavy lines and blank town and year plugs. EKD 18.2.(16), LKD 16.6.(16).



Censor is 3A48: the initials WFW are those of the chaplain, Rev.W.F.Webber, killed at Jutland.

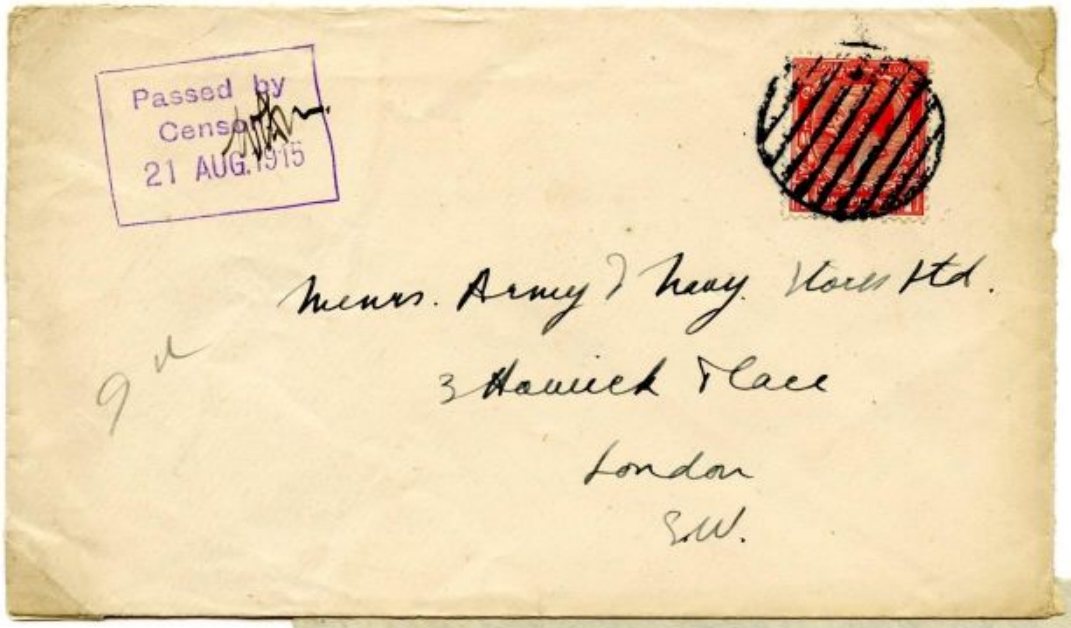
Gould's MA2, the most common of these marks, with censor 8A55 of the light cruiser HMAS *Sydney*. She arrived in UK waters on 15th September 1916, and was briefly attached to 5BS at Scapa from the 30th October to 15th November – hence the FPOa postmark.

MA3 – as MA2 but without the year. Known only from January 1st-17th 19(17). Censor is 6A25 of the auxiliary patrol depot ship HMS *Sokoto*.

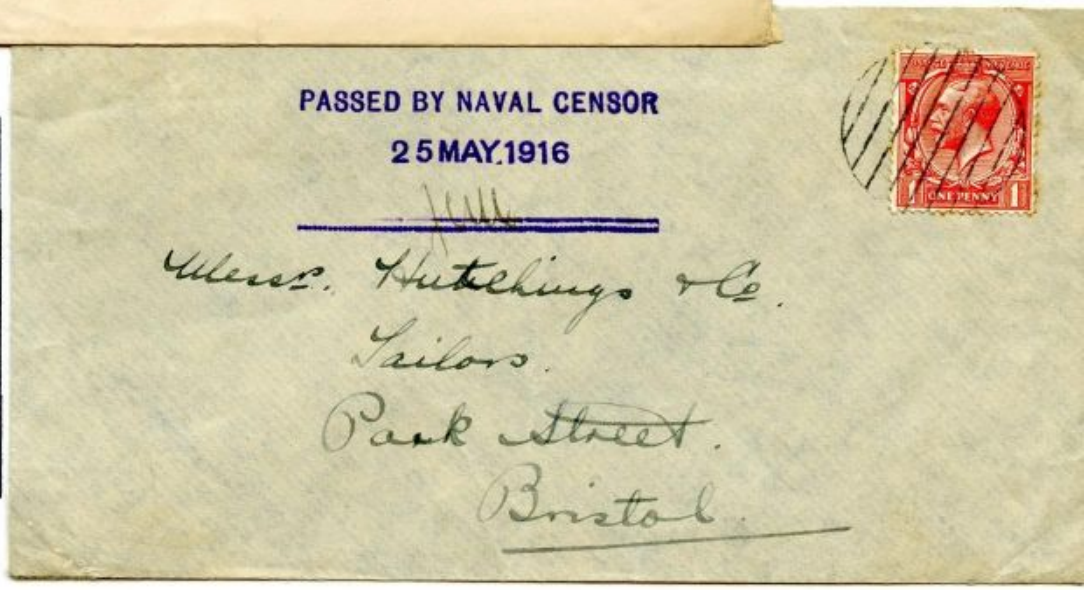


MA4 – as MA2 with the time slug omitted, known from 26th June 1918-June 1919. Censor 5D10.

The 8-bar handstamps



Censor 5C120, thought to be of the destroyer HMS *Acasta*, 4DF, Grand Fleet. This is a typical example of an 8 bar h/s.



Censor 4E35, thought to be from the AMC HMS *Patuca*, or (possibly) the battleship HMS *Conqueror*, 2BS. Noticeably thinner bars in the h/s.

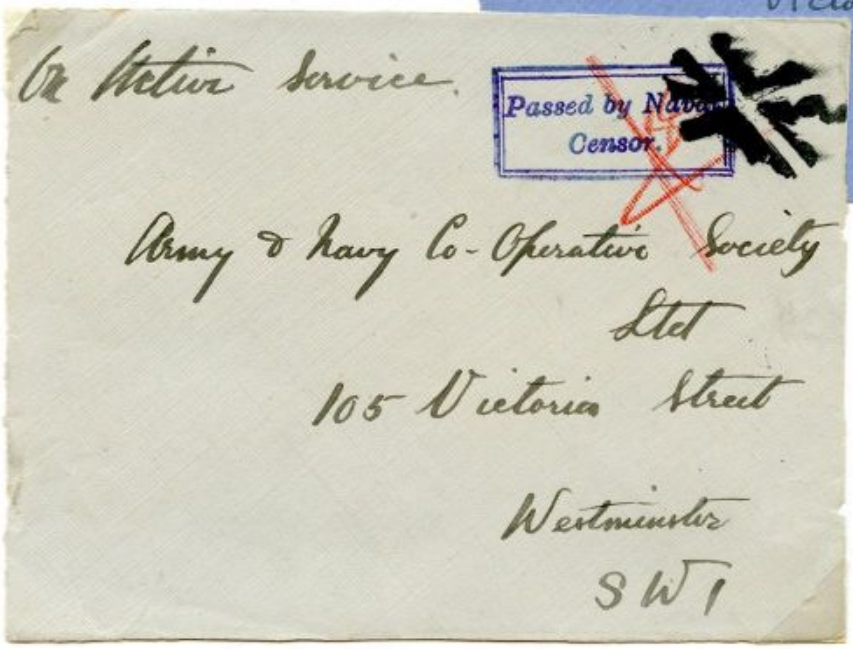
Censor 4B19 (unattributed): much thicker bars to the h/s.

Free postage implies the item postdates 18th June 1918.

The 7-barred circle: The Harwich Force

Registered mail from the Harwich Force – this from the light cruiser HMS Undaunted in August 1915. Either it received its registration aboard ship (hence the m/s endorsement) or, more likely, perhaps, was sent ashore to the Mail Office to receive it.

Censor 5D40 of the submarine depot ship HMS Maidstone.



Another of 5D40, with Gould DB94.

Two examples of a s/r FLEET P.O. postmark, both from August 1915.

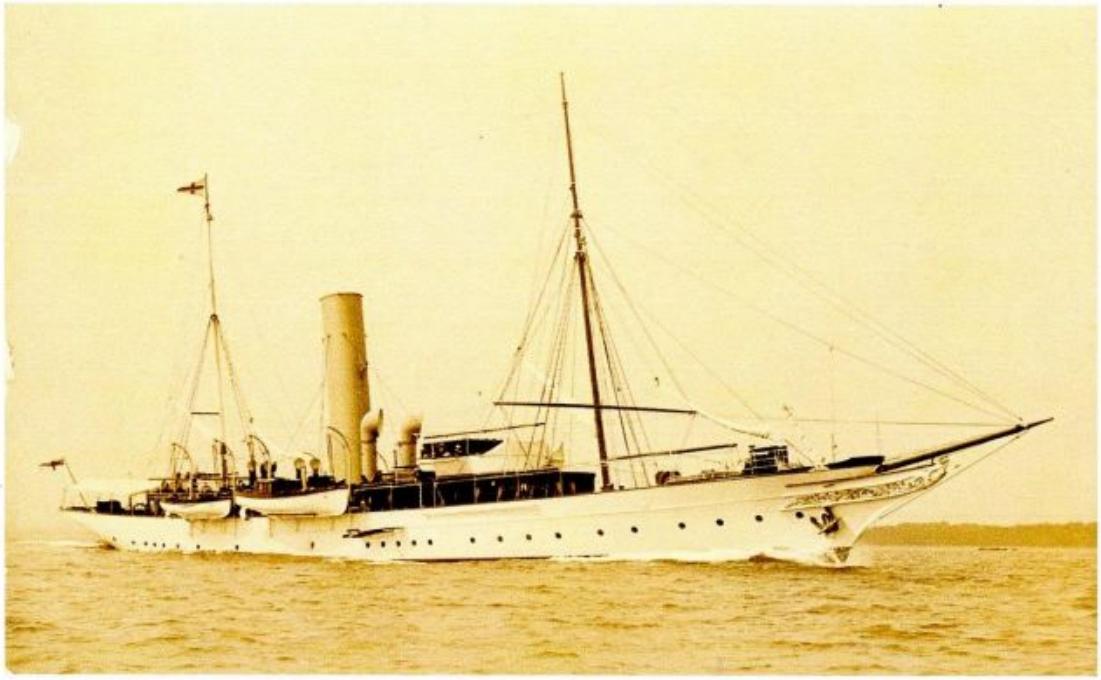
Censor 3A77: S.D.W. was Lt. Stuart Wilson, RN, aboard HMS *Martin*, H class destroyer, from April 1914-September 1915.

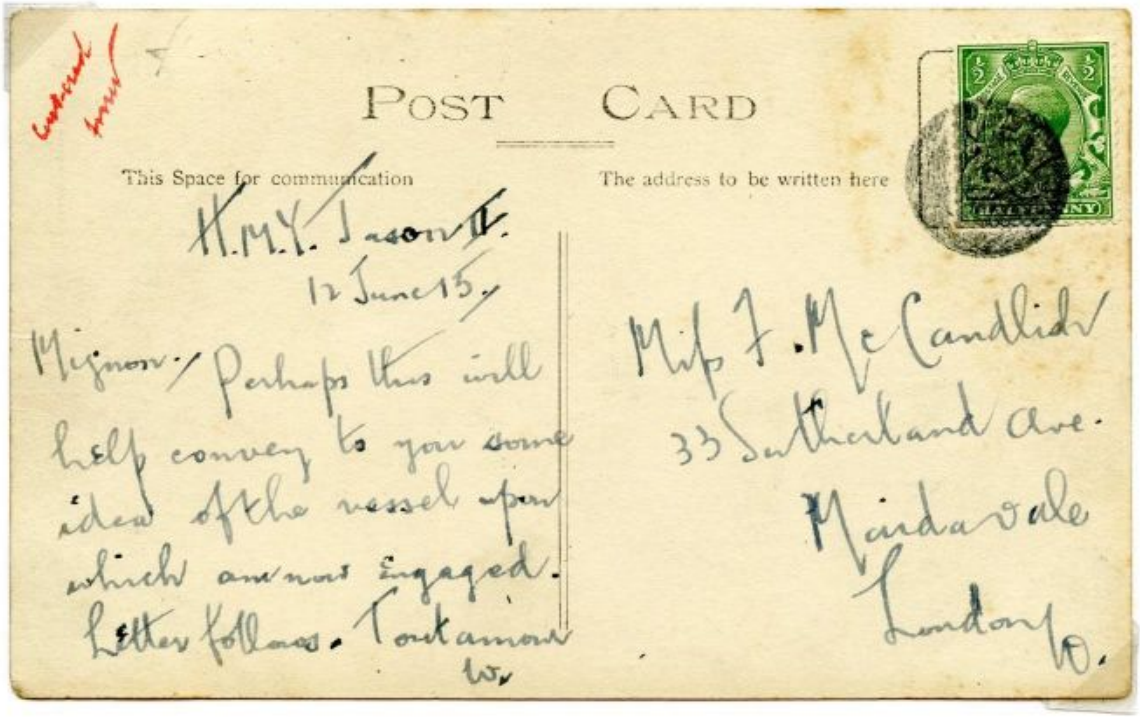
Another example, bearing 5C95 on the reverse, vessel uncertain at present.

Single Ring Fleet Post Office

From the Royal Fleet Auxiliary *Petroleum*. Gould's PC13 postmark, the s/r FLEET POST OFFICE A.

The Dumb Circle and Mute Cross Postmarks.





Censored

POST CARD

This Space for communication

The address to be written here

H.M.Y. Jason II.
12 June 15.

Mignon. Perhaps this will help convey to you some idea of the vessel upon which we are now engaged. Letter follows. Tout amour
W.

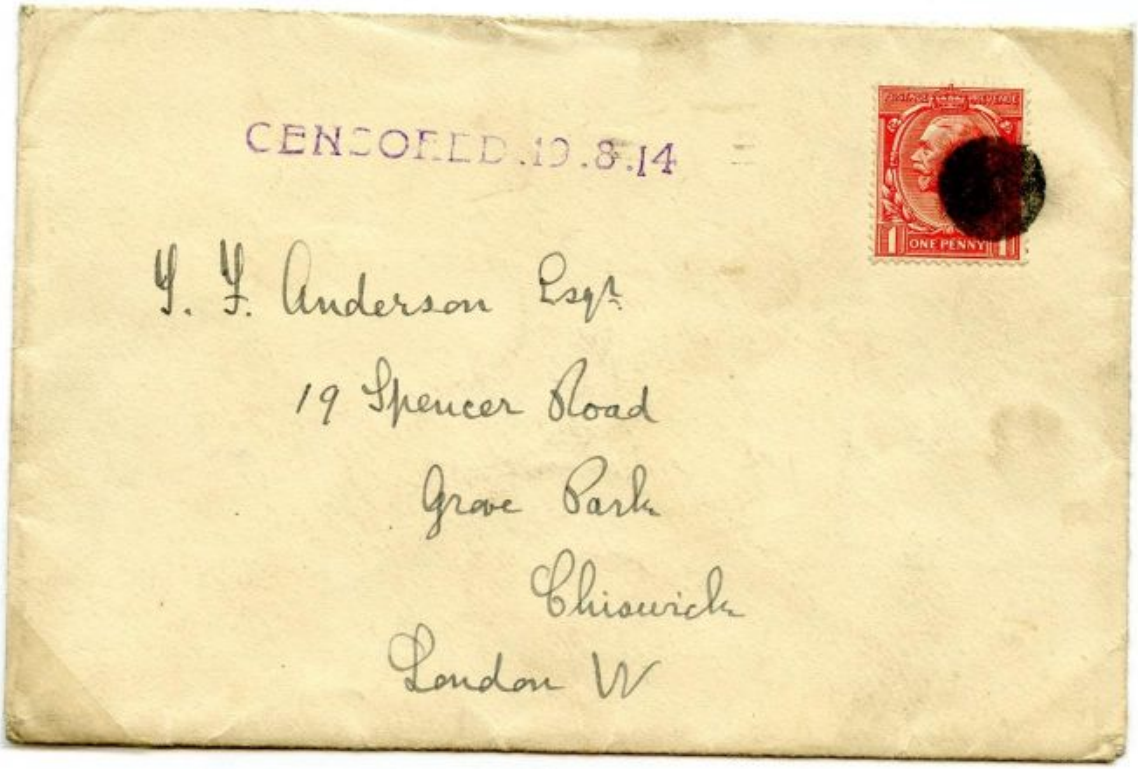
Miss F. McCandlish
33 Sutherland Ave.
Maida Vale
London W.

Gould's DD3 mark – solid, 20mm diameter – on a postcard from HMY Jason II, hired as an auxiliary patrol yacht, armed with 2x12 pdr guns. Note the red ink manuscript 'Censored' top left corner.

HMS Roxburgh

A Devonshire class heavy cruiser, 3rd Cruiser Squadron.

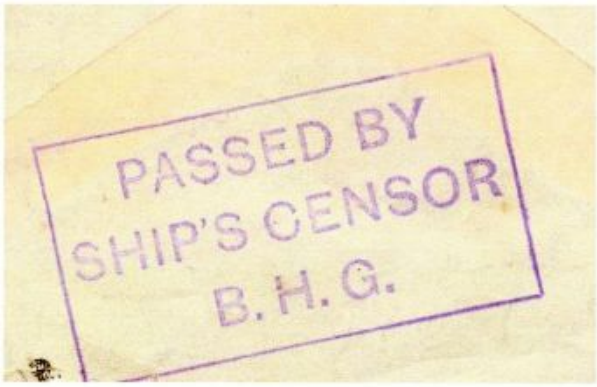
Gould censor 4A170, dated 19th August 1914, only two weeks after the outbreak of hostilities. The postmark is Gould's DD8, thought to have been used at Aultbea, Loch Ewe, a sea loch on the NW coast of Scotland, to where the fleet had temporarily retired while Scapa Flow was made secure.



HMS Argyll

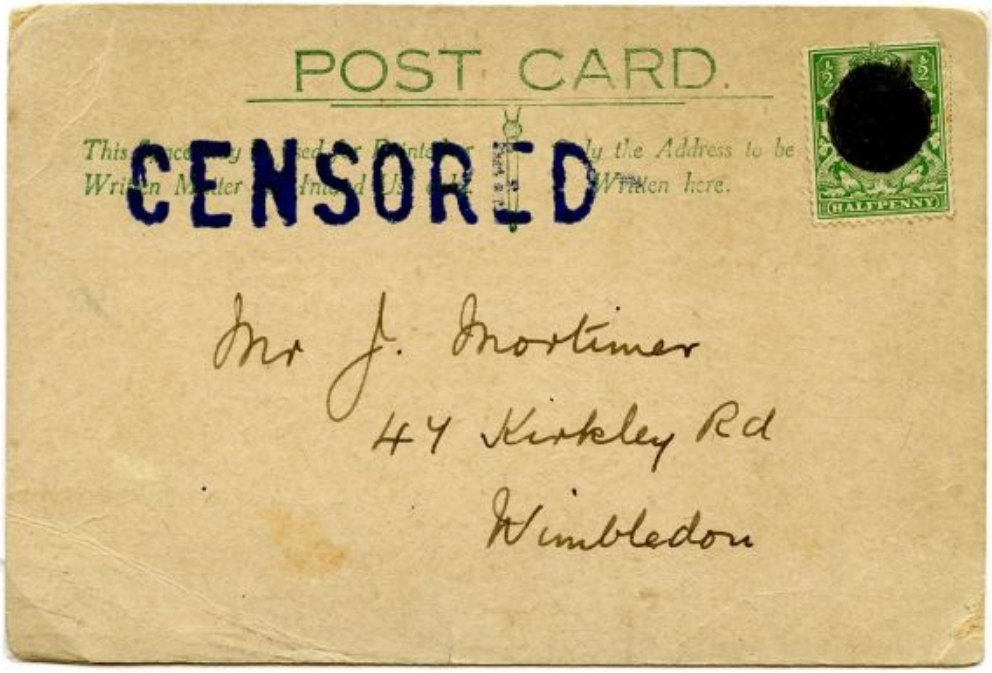
A Devonshire class heavy cruiser, 3rd Cruiser Squadron. She was lost on 28th October 1915. She ran aground on the Bell Rock off Dundee. All her crew were successfully taken off by destroyers. The blank circular postmark is Gould's DD16, thought to have been used at Devonport.

The censor mark is Gould's 3A38; BHG is probably Basil H. Godfrey, Assistant Clerk, aboard since March 1914.



HMS Assistance, repair ship.

Censor 4A0, with the return address of HMS Assistance. The postmark is Gould's DD8, attributed to Aultbea. HOWEVER, on the date of the card (23.9.14), the vessel was attached to 2BS, and was at Scapa at this time.



This is Gould's DB1 dumb cross mark on mail from the same vessel (same censor). The RB type 'Received' mark may be RB7, port of use unknown.

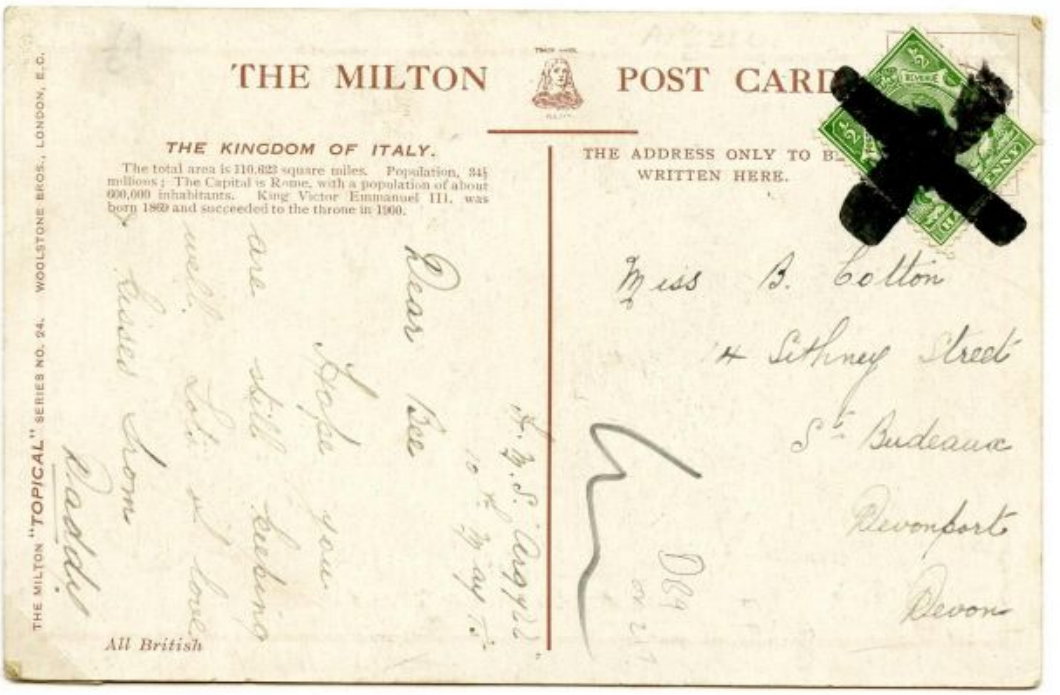
This is endorsed on the reverse from a petty officer on board HMS *Hannibal*, an ageing battleship. At this time (August 1914, the ship had been detached from the battle squadron protecting the Humber, and sent, with HMS *Magnificent* to Scapa Flow to act as guard ship (Scapa had no fixed defences at this time).

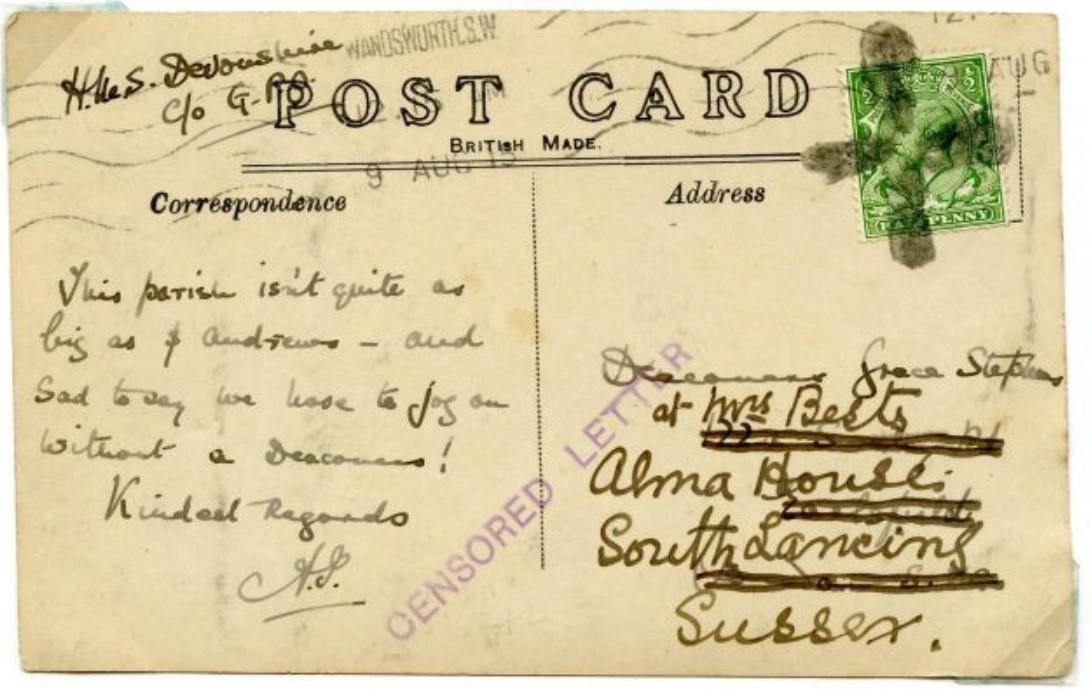
Postmark is Gould's DD32 of Kirkwall.
Postage due levied at the single rate.

A postcard from Asst.Paymaster W.L. Threlford, RNR, serving aboard the ageing cruiser HMS *Grafton*, 10 CS, Northern Patrol. The censor is the ship's medical officer, Henry B.Parker RN. The mute cross depicted here is not listed in Gould. Postage due levied at single rate, three weeks after the outbreak of war.

The Dumb Cross Postmarks

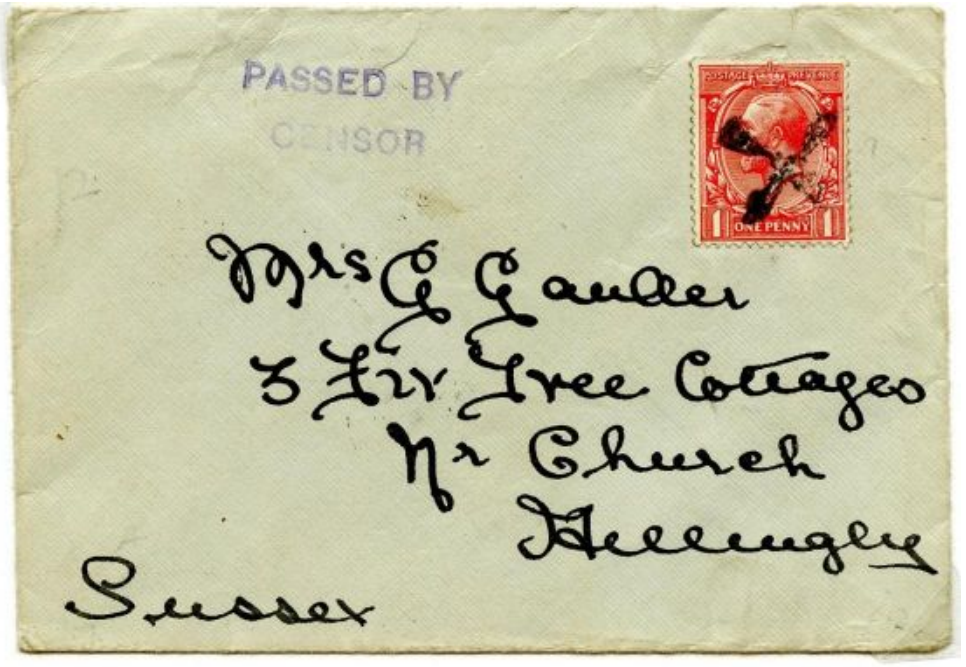
Gould's DB9 or DB21 (thought to be associated with the Firth of Forth) on a card datelined from HMS *Argyll*, heavy cruiser, in May 1915.

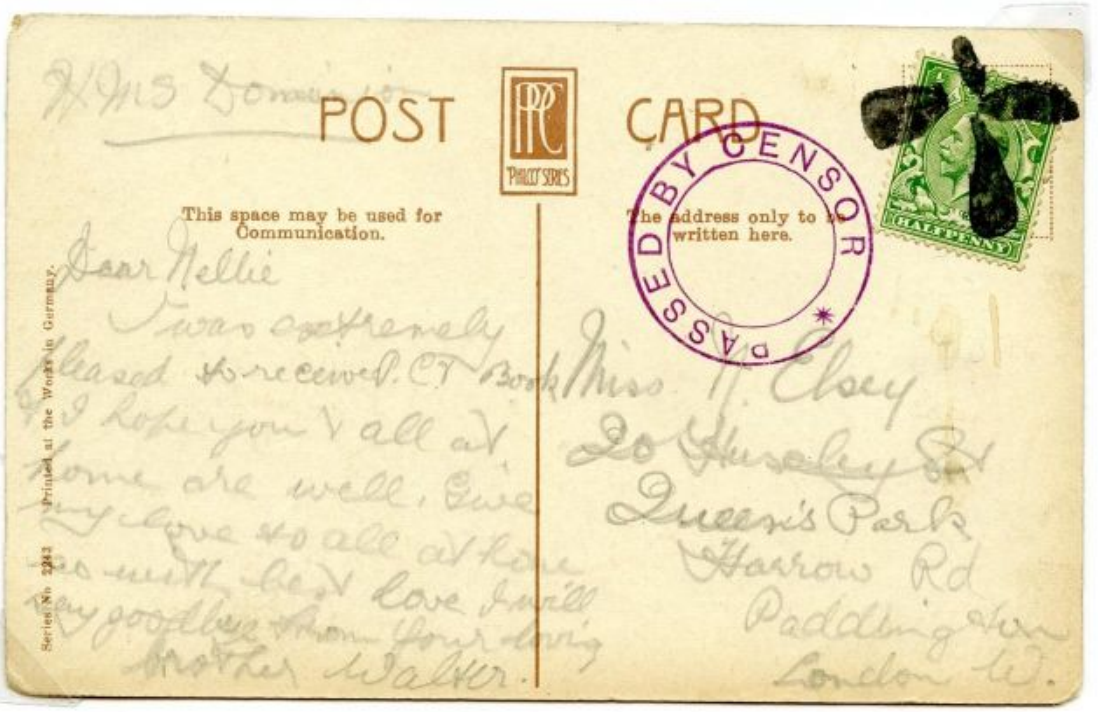




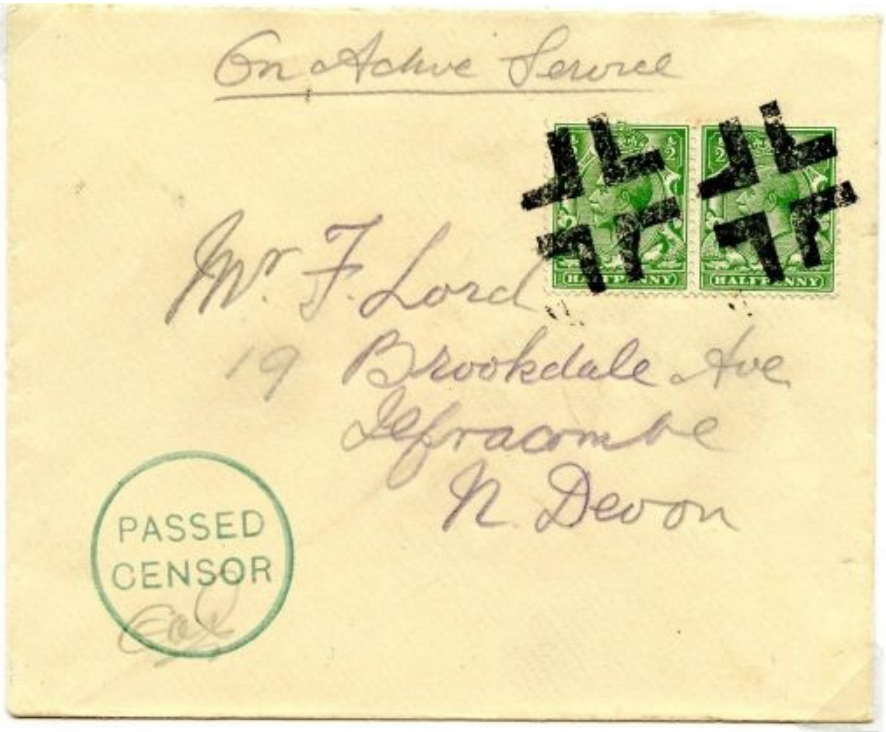
An example of one of the DB13-17 series (associated with the Firth of Forth) on a view card of the heavy cruiser HMS *Devonshire*, bearing censor 4E2

Censor is Gould's 4C144 of the ageing battleship HMS *Victorious* with mute cross DB130 postmark. The item has an arrival mark of 19th August 1914, The vessel was stationed on the Humber at this time with three other Majestic class battleships.



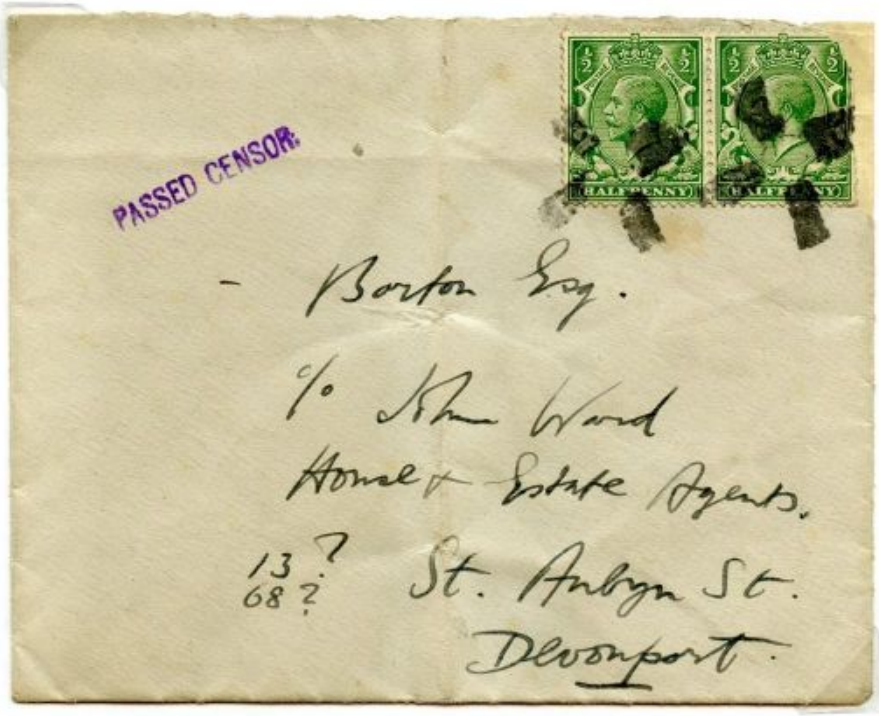


Censor 6B32 of the pre-dreadnought battleship HMS *Dominion*, postmarked with DB76.



Gould's DB106, port of use unknown, with censor 6A3 of the pre-dreadnought HMS Hindustan.

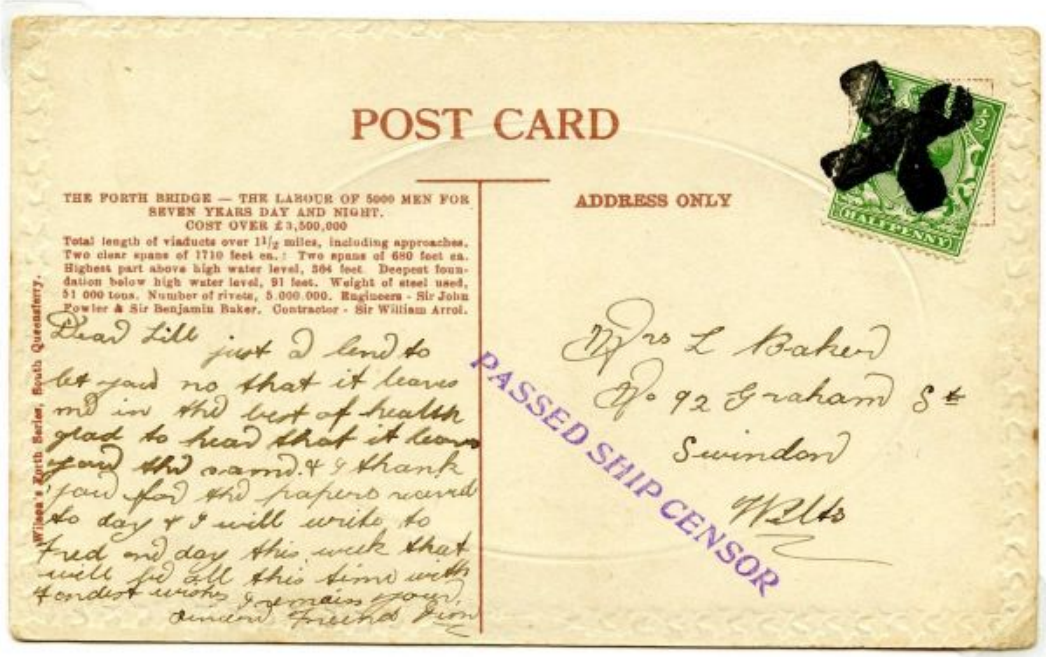
Gould's DB93, with censor 4B56 of the heavy cruiser HMS Roxburgh.



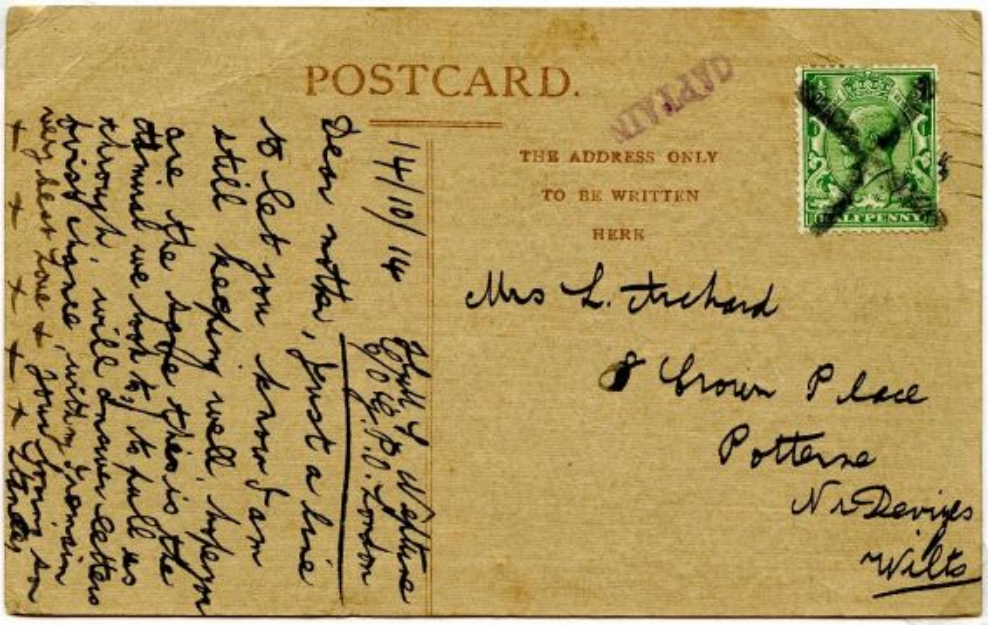
HMS Galatea

These two cards bear the censor 4D3 of HMS *Galatea*, light cruiser, Senior Office of 1LCS at Jutland, with the Battlecruiser Fleet from Rosyth.

Both items are viewcards of Edinburgh. The upper item bears DB31.



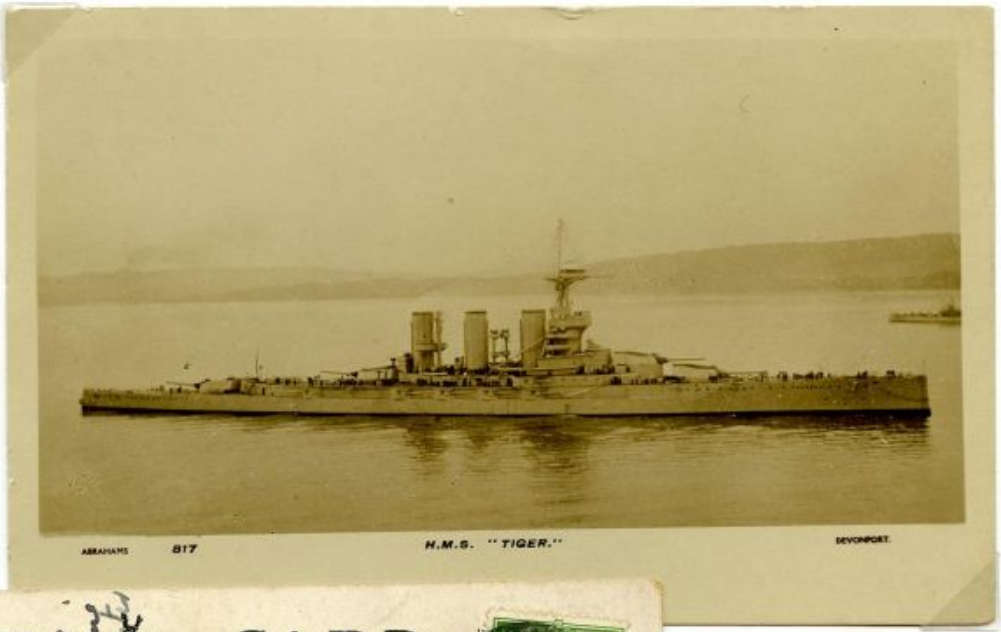
This mute cross mark is not recorded in Gould.



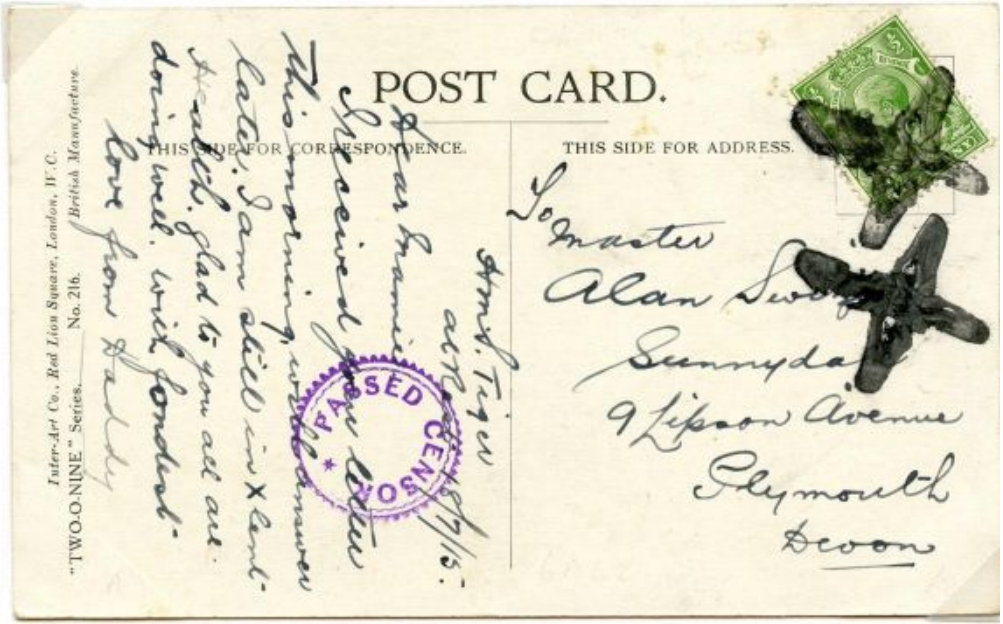
Postmark is DB62 on a card from the dreadnought battleship HMS *Neptune*. It bears the enigmatic cachet CAPTAIN. On the date of the card (14/10/14) the vessel was with 1BS at Scapa Flow.

Postmark is DB124, associated with Blyth, on an item bearing censor 4C353 of the destroyer HMS *Talisman*.

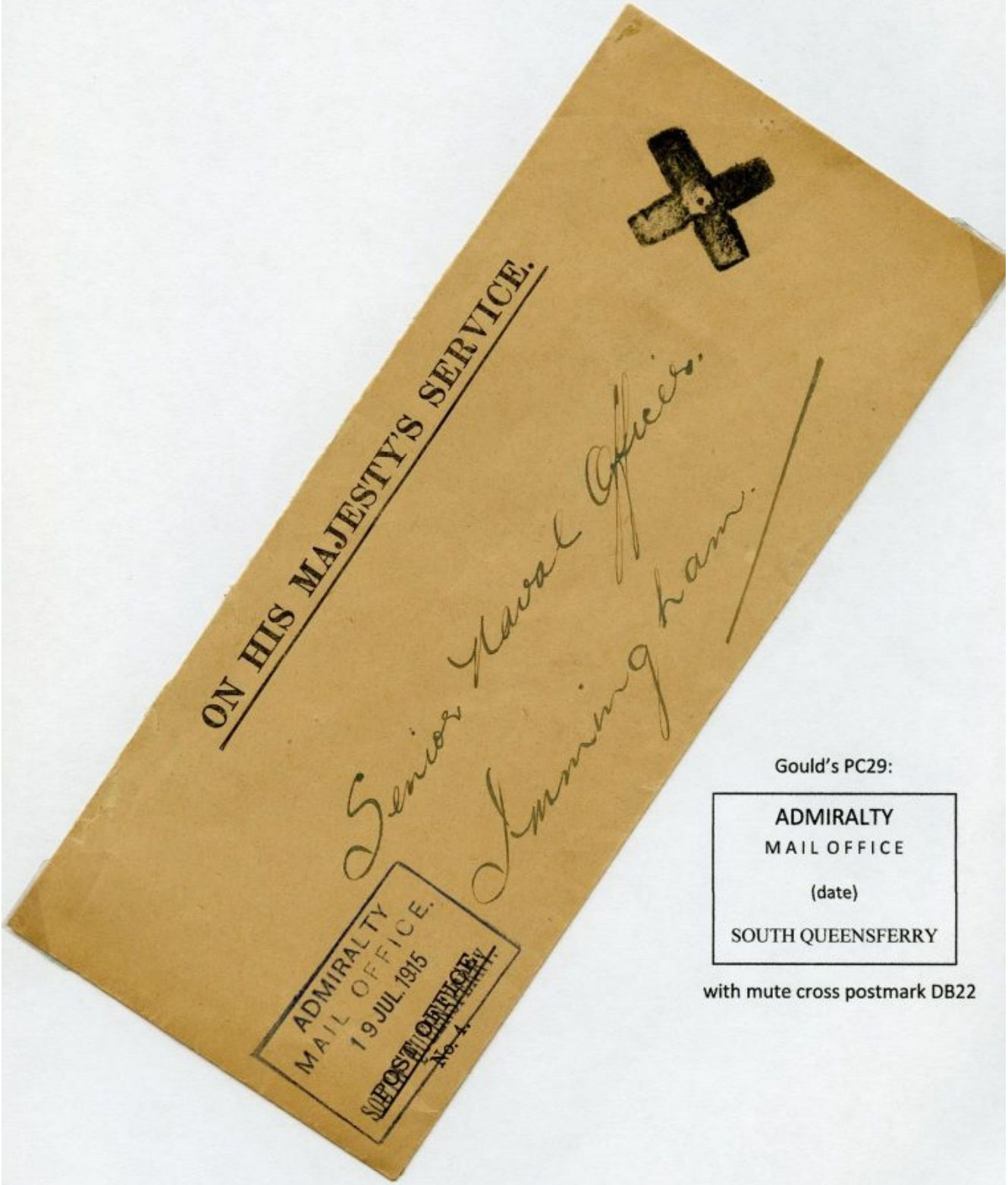
HMS Tiger, battlecruiser: a dumb circle and a mute cross.



Gould's DD15 open circle postmark. He suggests Middlesborough as the port of use. The card is dated Feb 3rd – if 1915,, she was on Tyneside, refitting. Censor 5B5.



The mute cross is DB45; *Tiger* was at Rosyth at this time (18.7.15), with Beatty's BCF. Censor 6B42.

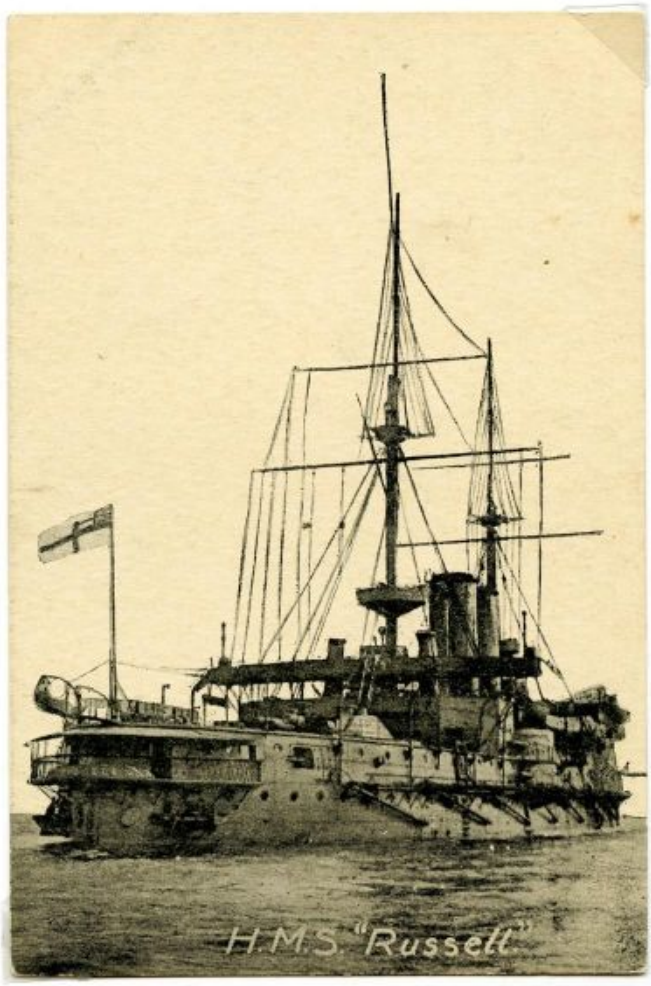


Gould's PC29:

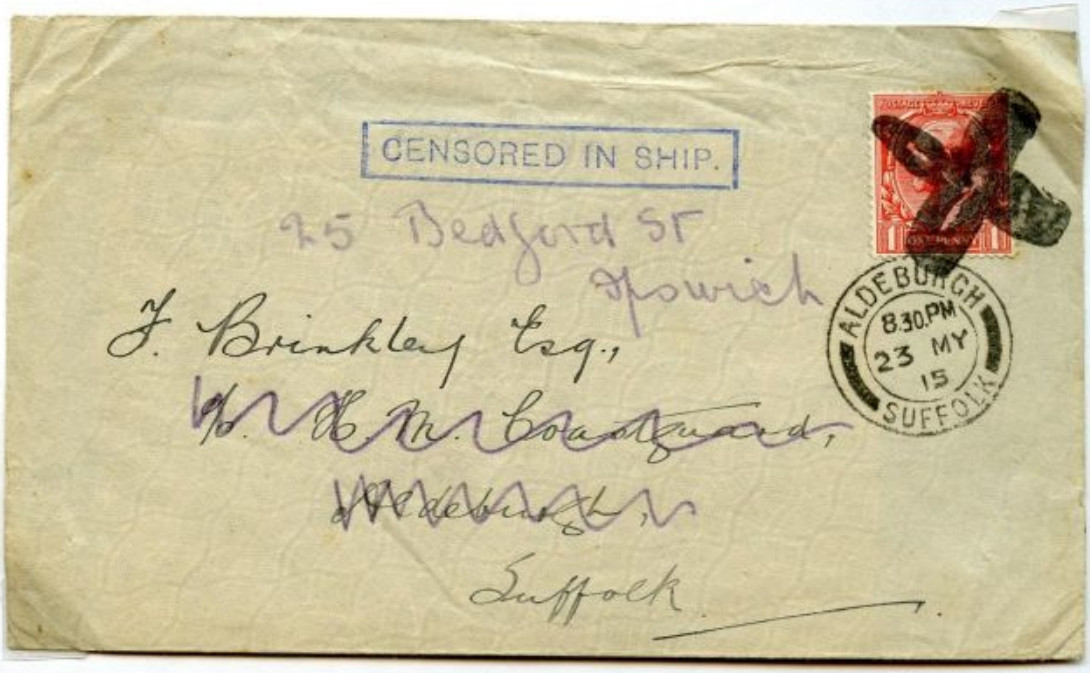
ADMIRALTY
MAIL OFFICE
(date)
SOUTH QUEENSFERRY

with mute cross postmark DB22

HMS Russell: pre-dresdnought battleship. Served at the Dardanelles and was sunk by a mine off Malta, 27th April, 1916.



Censor 5B10, and the postmark is Gould's DB31 of Rosyth.



Other mute marks:

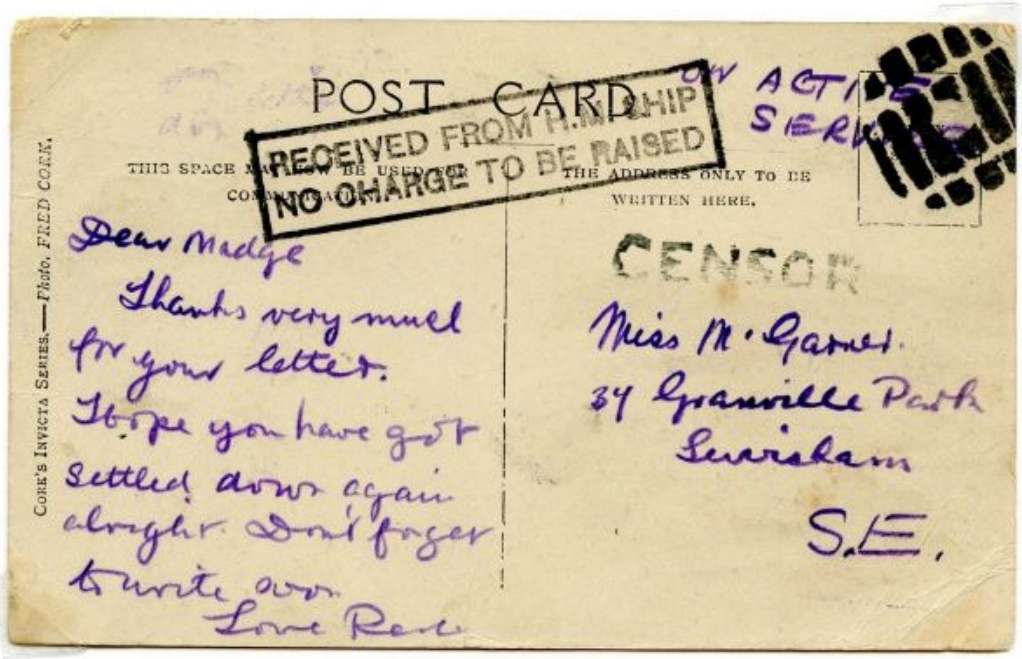
(at Sheerness):

The censor mark seems to be 4A64/65, thought to be of the ageing torpedo gunboat HMS *Circe*.

The handstruck

NOCHARGE TO BE RAISED MARK

is Gould's RA47. The segmented postmark is DE7 of Sheerness.



The boxed 'Received' mark is Gould's RC1 of Sheerness – on a viewcard of Sheerness. The censor is 4A149, vessel of use unknown at present. The postmark is Gould's DC100 of Sheerness.

H.M.S. PRINCE OF WALES.

c/o G.P.O.
London.

Oct. 28.

Argent

PASSED CENSOR

Mr N. Barrows.

36 Fairacres Road.

Oxford.

Censor is 4B21 of the pre-dreadnought battleship HMS *Prince of Wales*. Postmark is DC11 of Portland.

More from HMS *Prince of Wales* with the Channel Fleet:

Nov: 11th 14 POST CARD

COMMUNICATION

Dear Mother. Got your letter this morning and am pleased to hear you are a bit better. Do this photo any better. Best I can get, at this time. Dont worry about me, I am all rig and likely to be for sort

E. Payne

G. C. COZENS, 108 Queen Street, Portsmouth.

ADDRESS ONLY

Passed Censor

Mrs. L. Payne.
28 Ringer Lane
Clowne
Nr. Chesterfield

Censor 4B45 of the *Prince of Wales*, anchored at Portland 3-14/11/14. Postmark is Gould's DB106.

Censor 4B45 again with DC14 of Sheerness (or perhaps Portland ?)

URGENT

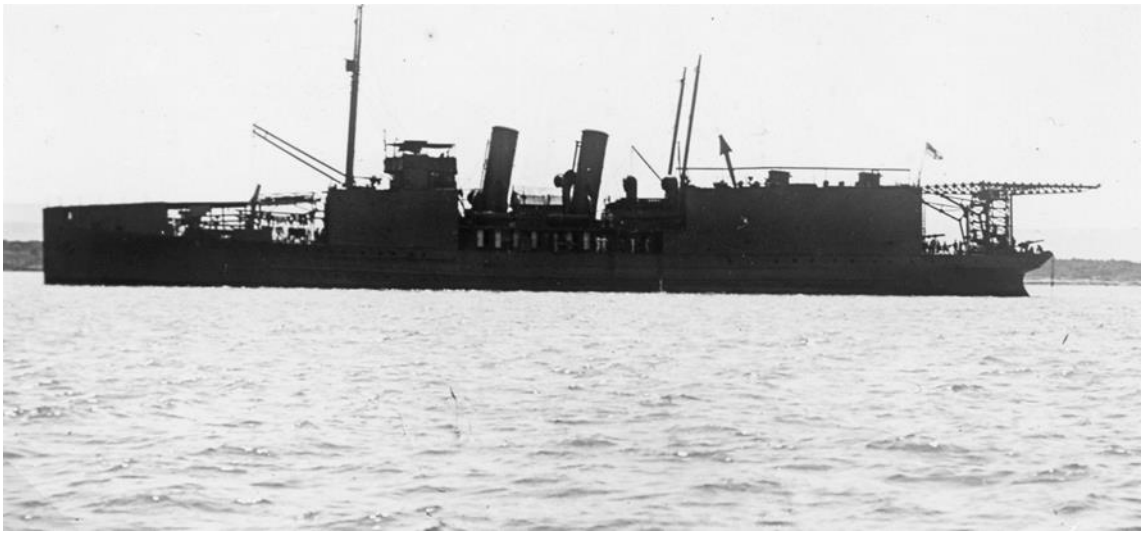
Passed Censor

E. R. Goolden Esq.
Cookham Grove
Berks.

PASSED CENSOR

E. R. Goolden Esq.
Cookham Grove
Berks.

Censor 4B21 again, with a form of DC32, probably of Portland.



HMS *Riviera* was a seaplane carrier, requisitioned in August 1914, and converted to its war role at Chatham. The censor mark is of the Dover Patrol style, where she saw service, so the mute cancellation (Gould DB3) may have been applied there.

ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE.

The Controller,

Post Office Savings Bank,

Blythe Road, West Kensington,

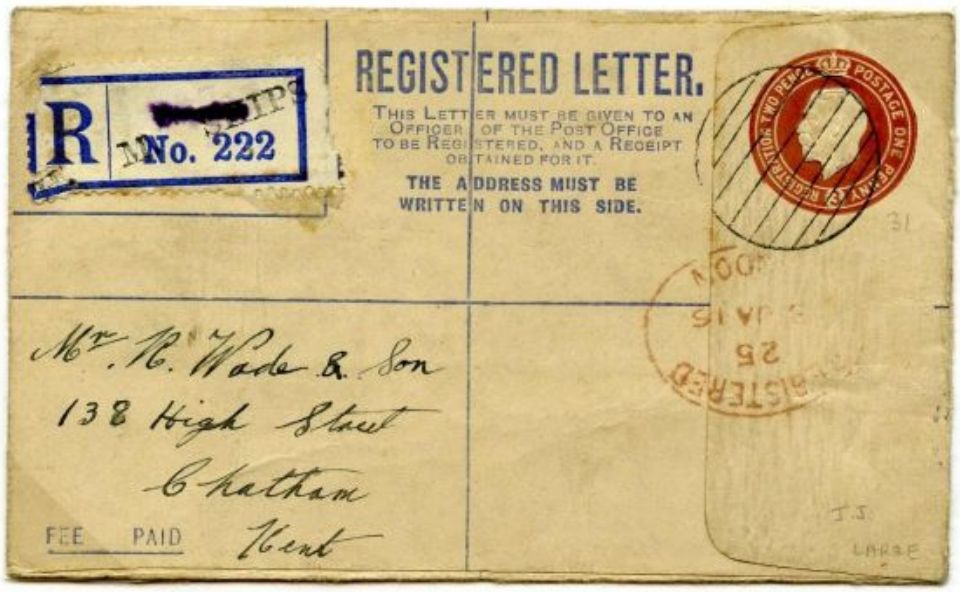
LONDON, W. 14.

CENSOR

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK.
No. 3B.

HMS Riviera
Nov 1917

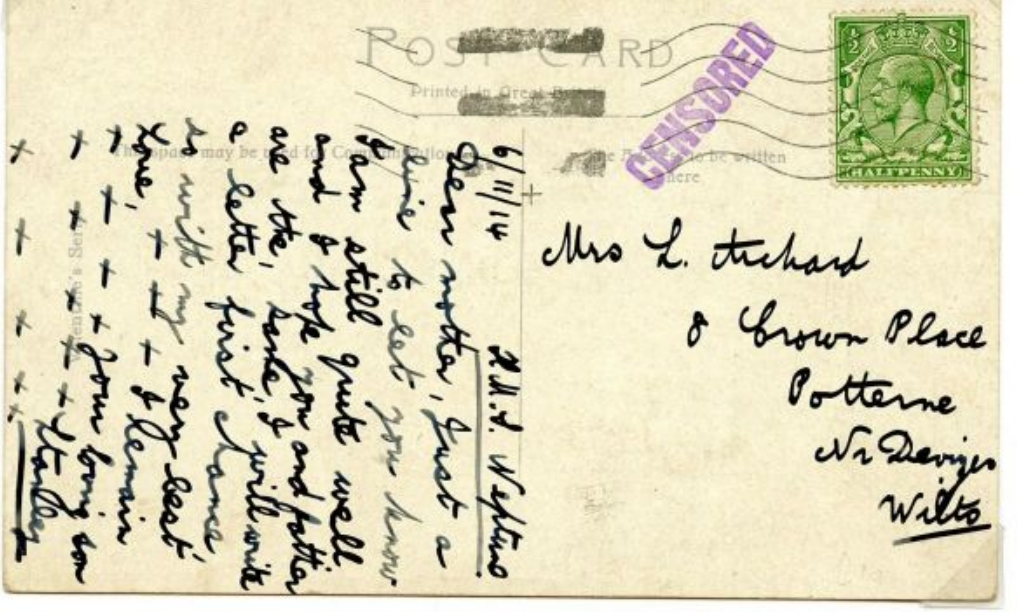
The Naval Postmarks of Inverness.

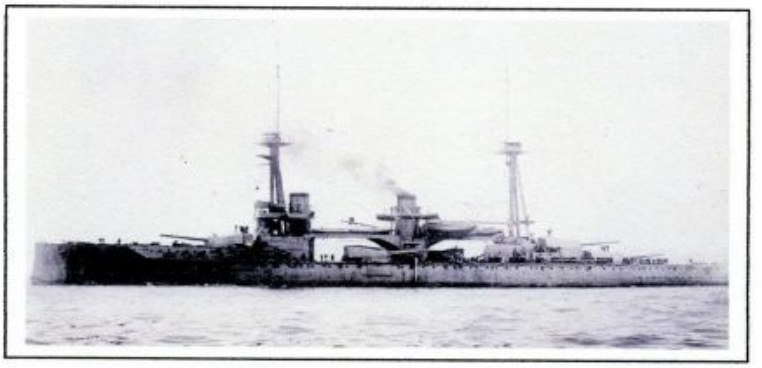


Cancelled with Gould unevenly-spaced 8 ba grid, DA17. The origin town name o Inverness has bee obliterated wit indelible ink, and th handstruck H.M.SHIP applied. The cover wa despatched to Londor where a secon registration label wa applied over the first.

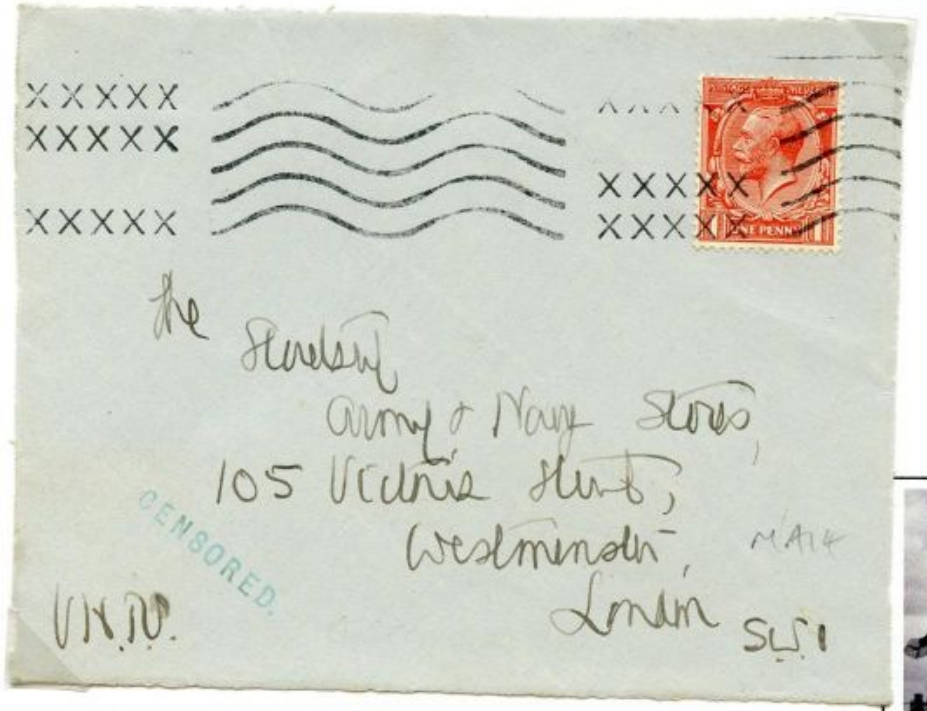
Censor 1A95 of HMS *Paragon*, K class destroyer.
Torpedoed in action in the Dover Straits, night of 17-18th March 1917 by a German destroyer. All the officers and most of the men were lost. Postmark is Gould's DC15 of Inverness.

Gould's MA7 – rubber blocks in the town, date and time slots – on a postcard dated from, and bearing 4A70 of, HMS *Neptune*, 1BS at Jutland.



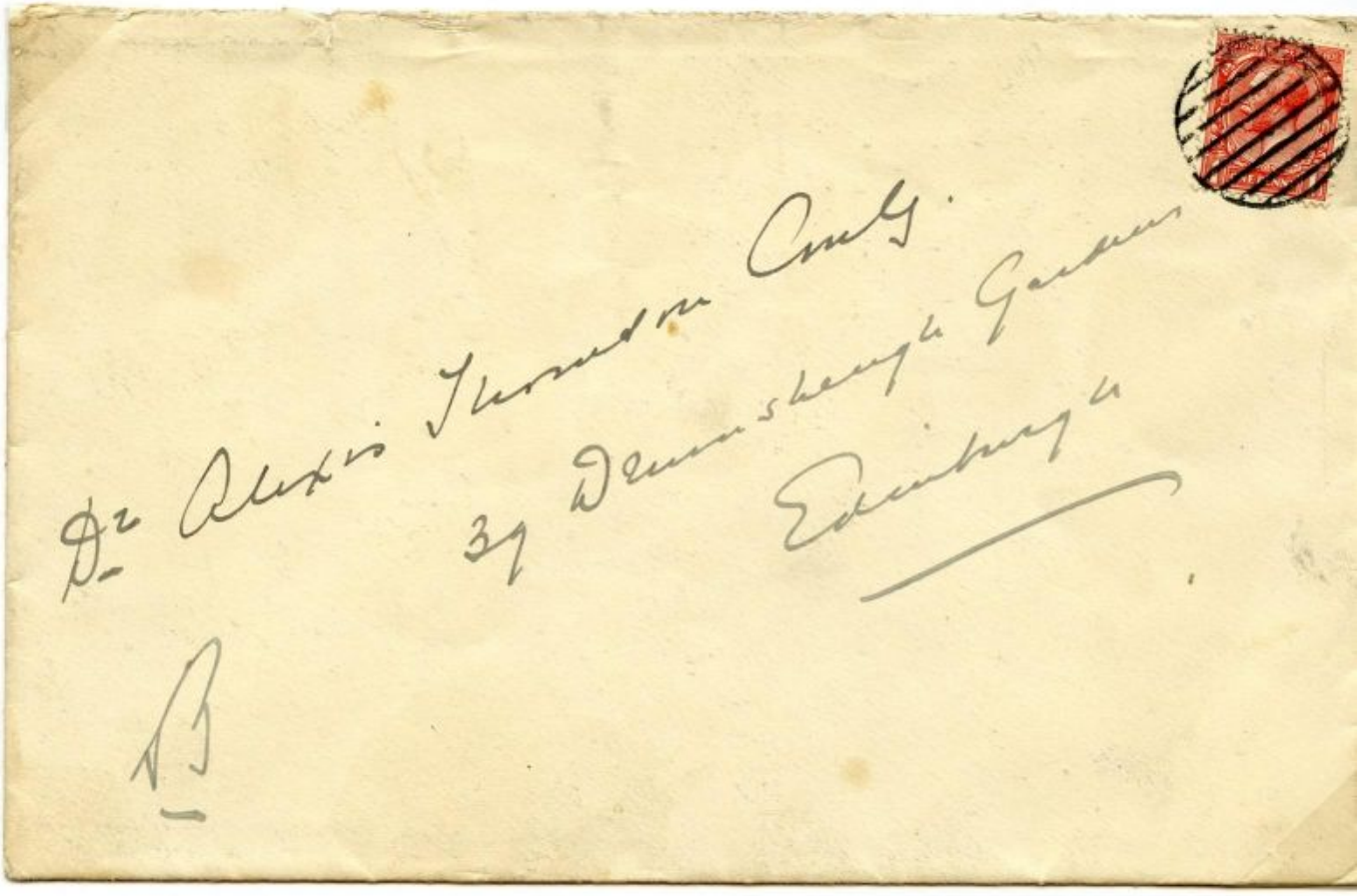


The port(s) of use for the naval postmarks containing various patterns of XXXXXXs has/have yet to be established. This is Gould's MA14, bearing censor 4A82, thought to be from HMS *Resolution*.



A Letter from the Commander-in-Chief, Sir David Beatty.

Beatty replaced Jellicoe as C-in-C in November 1916, and made HMS *Queen Elizabeth* his flagship. The contents are dated 2nd August 1917.



2. 8. 17

Dear Mr Thomson

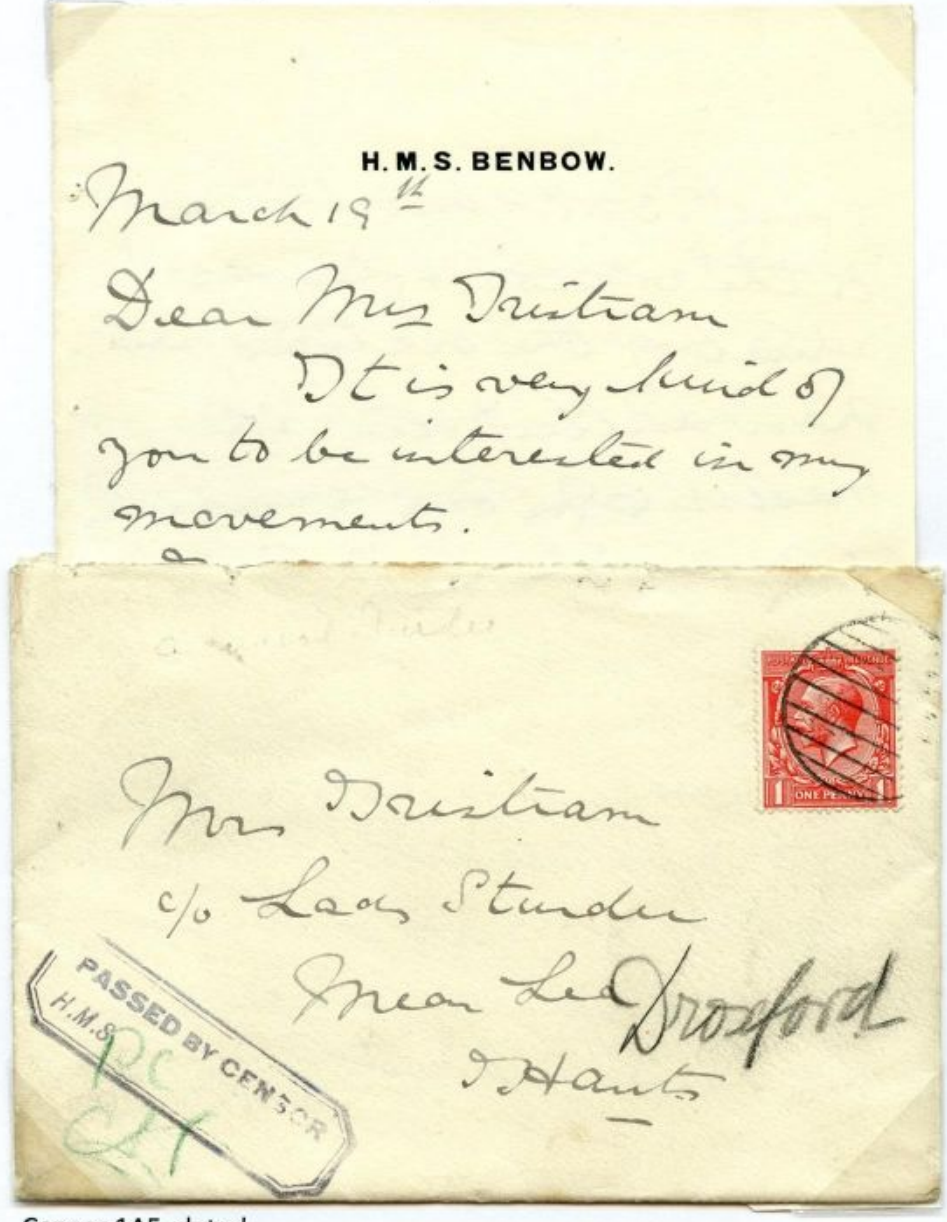
I apologise for delay but just didn't have time to appreciate in this letter your work are about. Military pe- -quirements demand a fair time precedence of facilities for execution

Yours sincerely

David Beatty

HMS Benbow, 4th Battle Squadron

Flagship of Admiral Sturdee at Jutland, 4BS.The letter is from Sturdee himself, and he mentions the (recent) destruction of the German cruiser *Dresden* by three of his former squadron. *Dresden* escaped from the Battle of the Falklands Islands in December 1914 where Sturdee was the commanding officer of the British force. Censor 1B18.



H.M.S. BENBOW.

March 19th

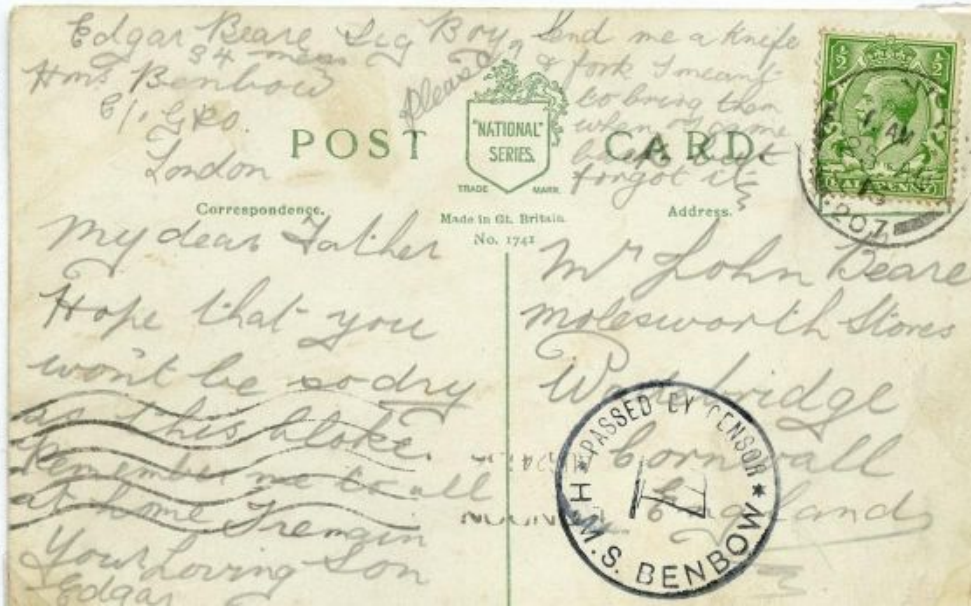
Dear Mrs Dustram

It is very kind of you to be interested in my movements.

Mrs Dustram
c/o Lady Stunder
Near Lee Broxford
Hants

PASSED BY CENSOR H.M.S.

Censor 1A5, dated August 1916.



Edgar Beare Sig Boy 34 mess
Hms Benbow
C/o G.P.O.
London

Send me a knife & fork please I meant to bring them when I came but forgot it

POST CARD

"NATIONAL" SERIES. TRADE MARK

Made in Gt. Britain. No. 1741

Correspondence.

My dear Father
Hope that you won't be so dry as this bloke
Remember me to all at home Trengin
Your loving Son
Edgar

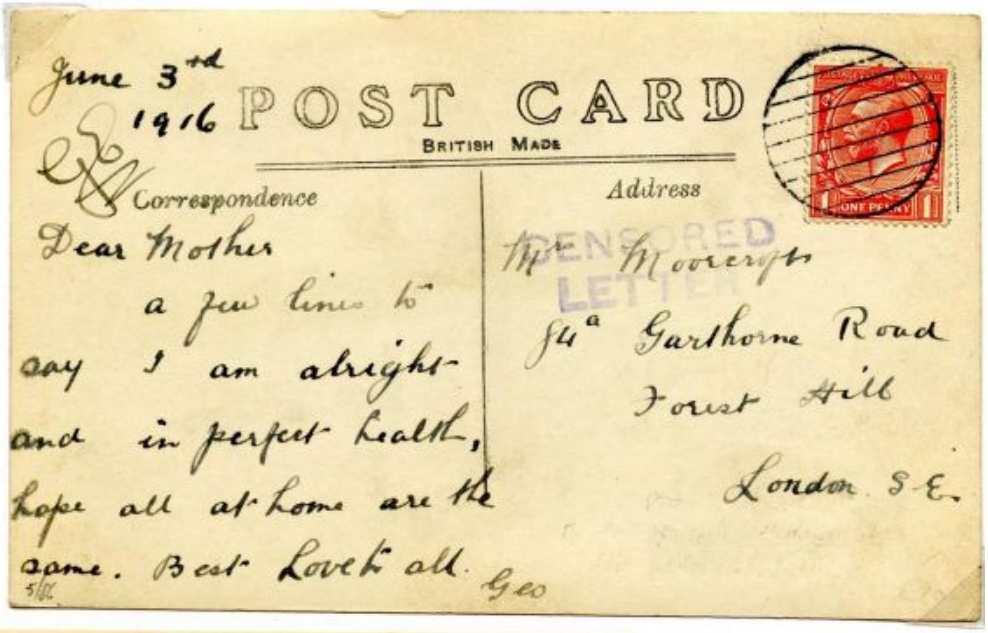
Address.

Mr John Beare
Molesworth Stores
Wadebridge
Cornwall
England

PASSED BY CENSOR H.M.S. BENBOW

5th Battle Squadron: HMS Warspite

Censor 4E5 from HMS *Warspite*, dated 3 days after the Battle of Jutland, where her steering was badly damaged, and she 'retired hurt'. The writer of the card would have had an interesting time.



June 3rd 1916

POST CARD

BRITISH MADE

Correspondence

Dear Mother

a few lines to say I am alright and in perfect health, hope all at home are the same. Best Love to all. Geo

Address

Mrs Moorcroft

54a Garthorne Road

Forest Hill

London S.E.

CENSORED LETTER

POST CARD.

THIS SPACE MAY BE USED FOR PRINTED OR WRITTEN MATTER.

ONLY THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN HERE.

CENSORED LETTER

The Battle of Jutland.

31st MAY, 1916.

Here's to the men who fought and fell
Off Jutland's coast that day;
Their name and fame shall cast a spell
O'er Britain's name for aye!

Here's to the men who fought and won
On that blood-stained sea,
Who stood to their gun till the crafty Hun
Was made to turn and flee!

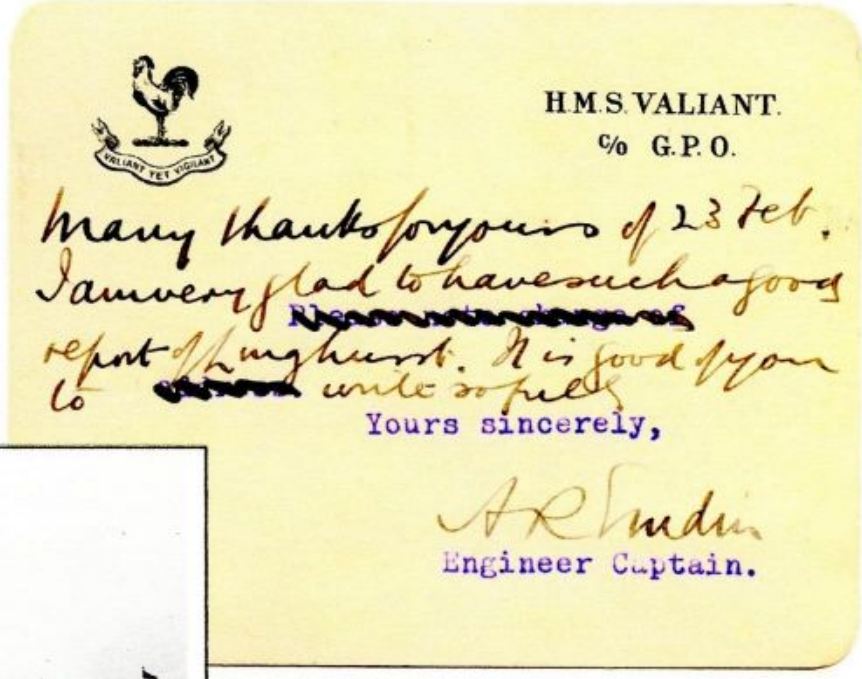
And here's to all our sailor men,
Jolly and brave and true;
And may they soon enjoy again
Peace o'er the ocean blue!

Copyright 536 Allan Junior

HMS Valiant

From Engineer Captain Archie Emdin: he was carried on the books of HMS *Barham* (flag, 5BS), on the staff of Rear Admiral Evan-Thomas.

He was accommodated aboard HMS *Valiant*, (5BS). However, this item has received Gould's 5E1 of HMS *Queen Elizabeth*, also 5BS.

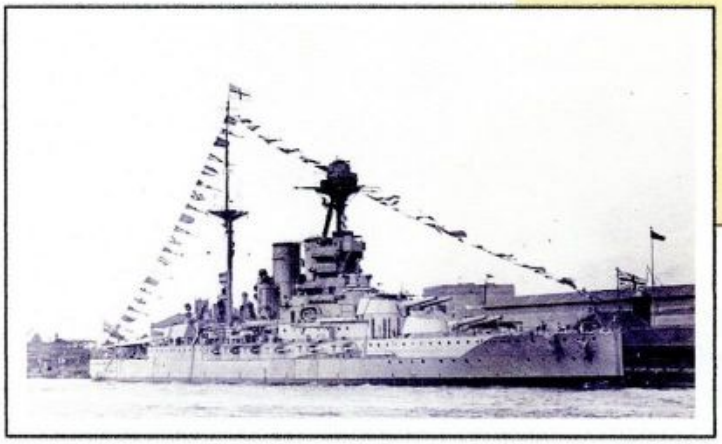


H.M.S. VALIANT.
c/o G.P.O.

Many thanks for your note of 23 Feb. I am very glad to have such a good report of Langhurst. It is good of you to write so fully

Yours sincerely,

A R Emdin
Engineer Captain.



England

PASSED SHIP'S CENSOR

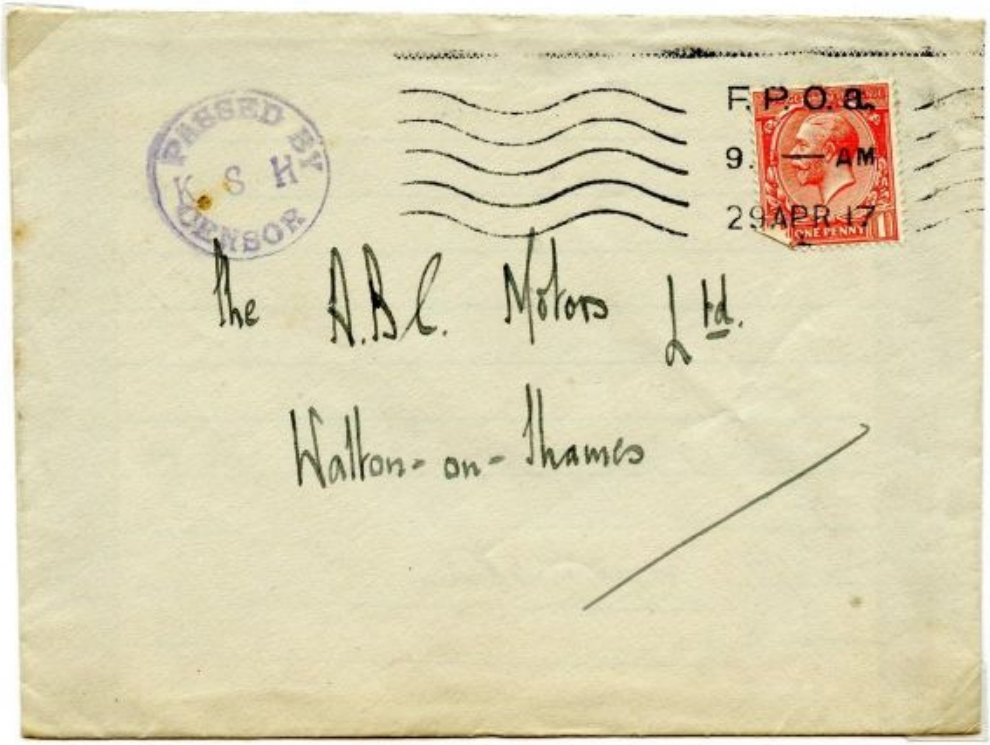
2 MAR

HALFPENNY

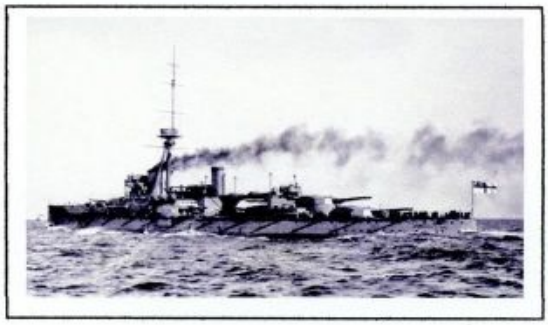
Lt Cmdr J W Mather RNR
The Signal School
RN Depôt
Crystal Palace
London
AR2

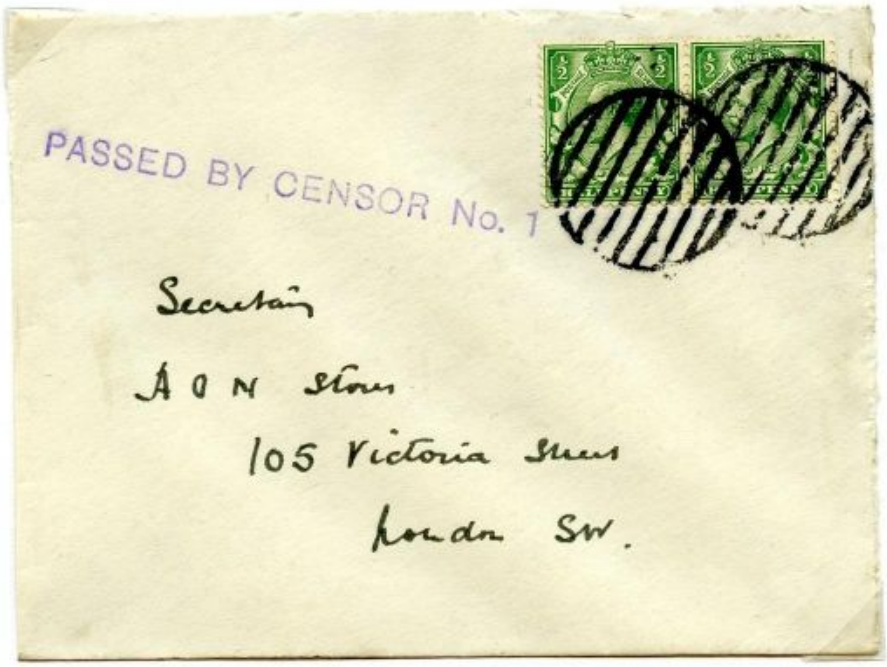
The postmark is Gould's MA1, the first form of the FPO a Krag, without the FPO a, or the year slug (1916).

HMS Marlborough, 1st Battle Squadron



Censor 3A66: KSH was Kenneth S Hay, Fleet paymaster, RN, aboard HMS *Hercules* from March 1917 until at least the end of the war.

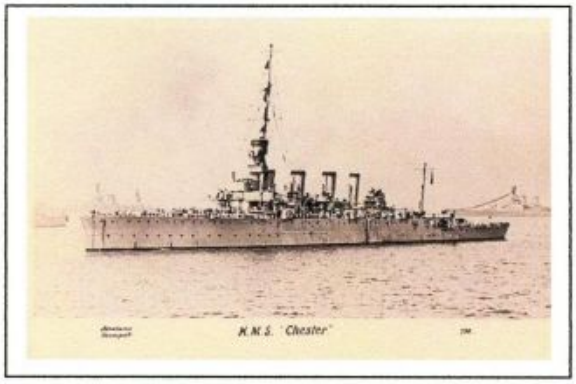




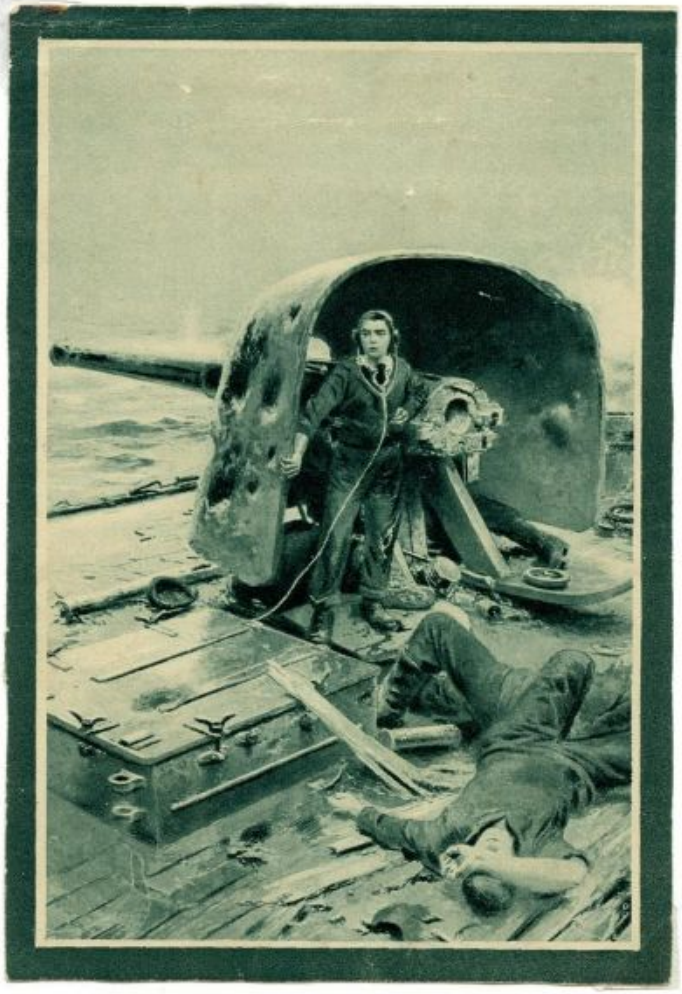
Censor 4C120 of HMS *Hercules*.

HMS Chester

Light cruiser, with 3rd Light Cruiser Squadron at Jutland, heavily engaged by German light cruisers at Jutland. At the time this item was posted (July 1916), the ship was refitting at Hull, repairing the battle damage incurred at Jutland. The item is written by her Captain, R.N.Lawson.



The ship is famous for the award of a posthumous V.C. to the sight setter of one of the forward guns, Boy 1st Class Jack Cornwall, for his part in the battle.



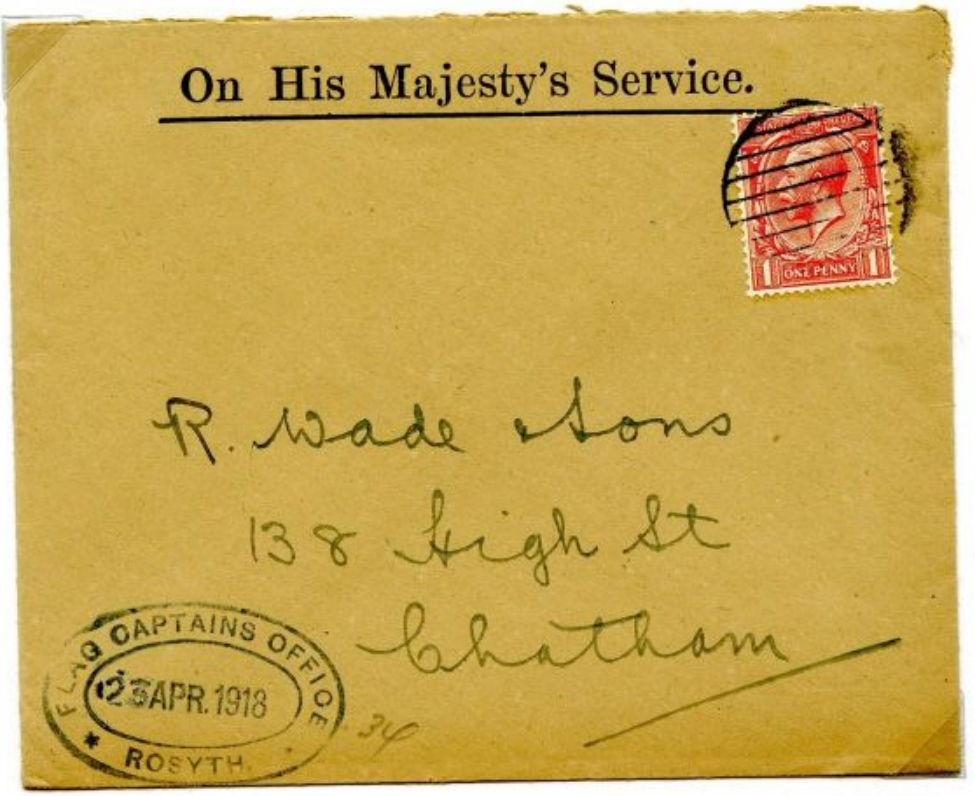
The Firth of Forth

HMS *Columbine* was a sloop, tender to HMS *Crescent*, an old cruiser acting as a depot ship at Rosyth – hence the Edinburgh postmark.

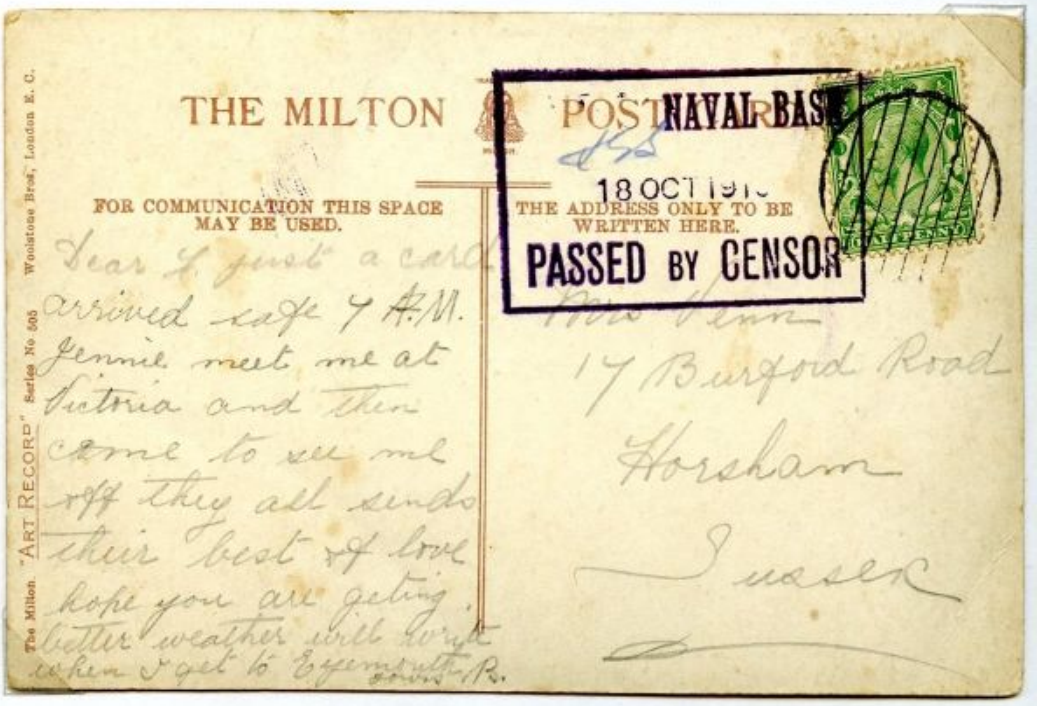
This censor mark is probably 4C35; P.K.K. is almost certainly Lt (N) Piers K.Kekewich, serving aboard the light cruiser HMS *Galatea* at this time (Feb.'17).

A.M.O. → Admiralty Mail Office

A 5A type censor ca.35x11mm. One of the group 5A122-5A129; no confident attribution at present.

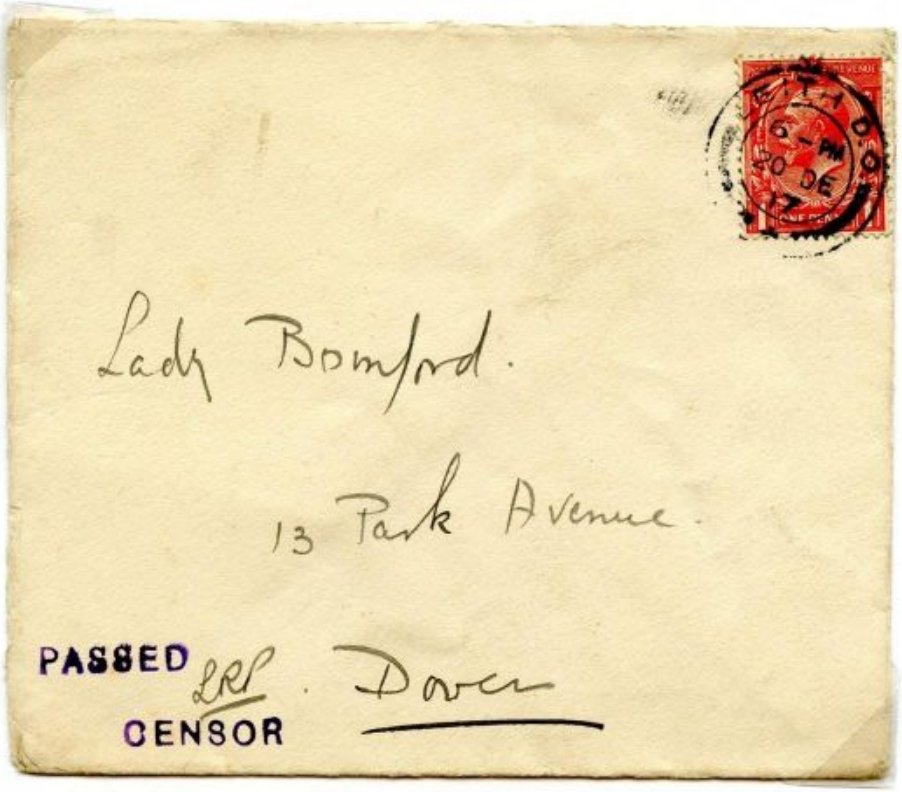


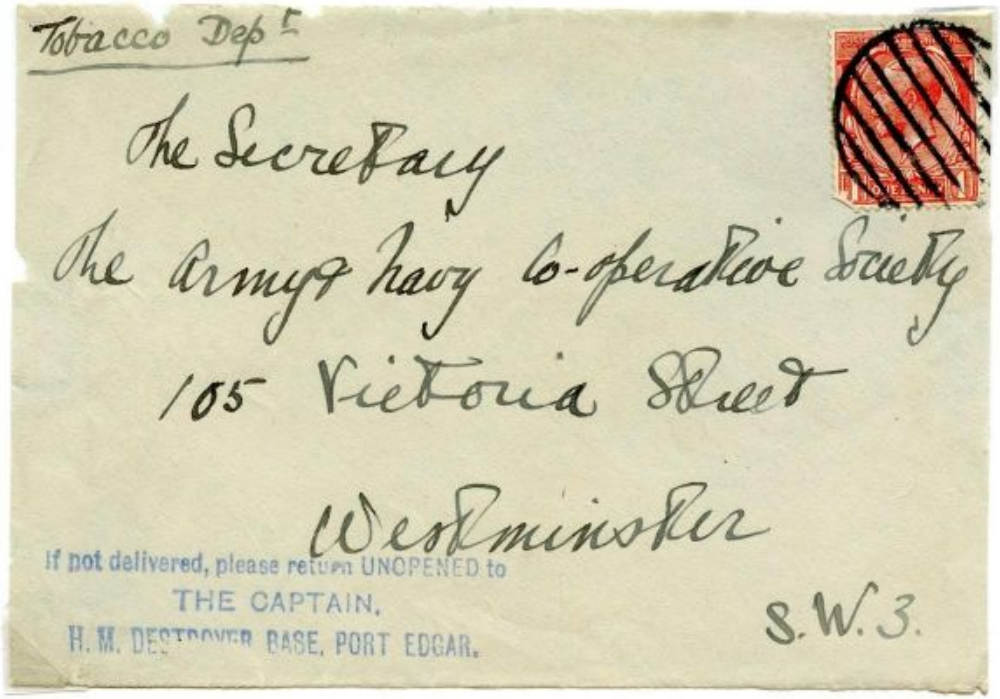
From the Flag Captain's office at Rosyth.



Censor 2A9 from Granton naval base. Granton is a shoreside industrial town with a large harbour about 3 kms west of Leith. The card is a coloured view of Edinburgh.

This item appears to be from Lt.Cmdr L.R.Palmer, RN. He was the commanding officer of HMS *Violent*, appointed when the ship first commissioned in November 1917. The censor is one of the generic 4B80 types, known from the destroyer flotillas based on the Firth of Forth.



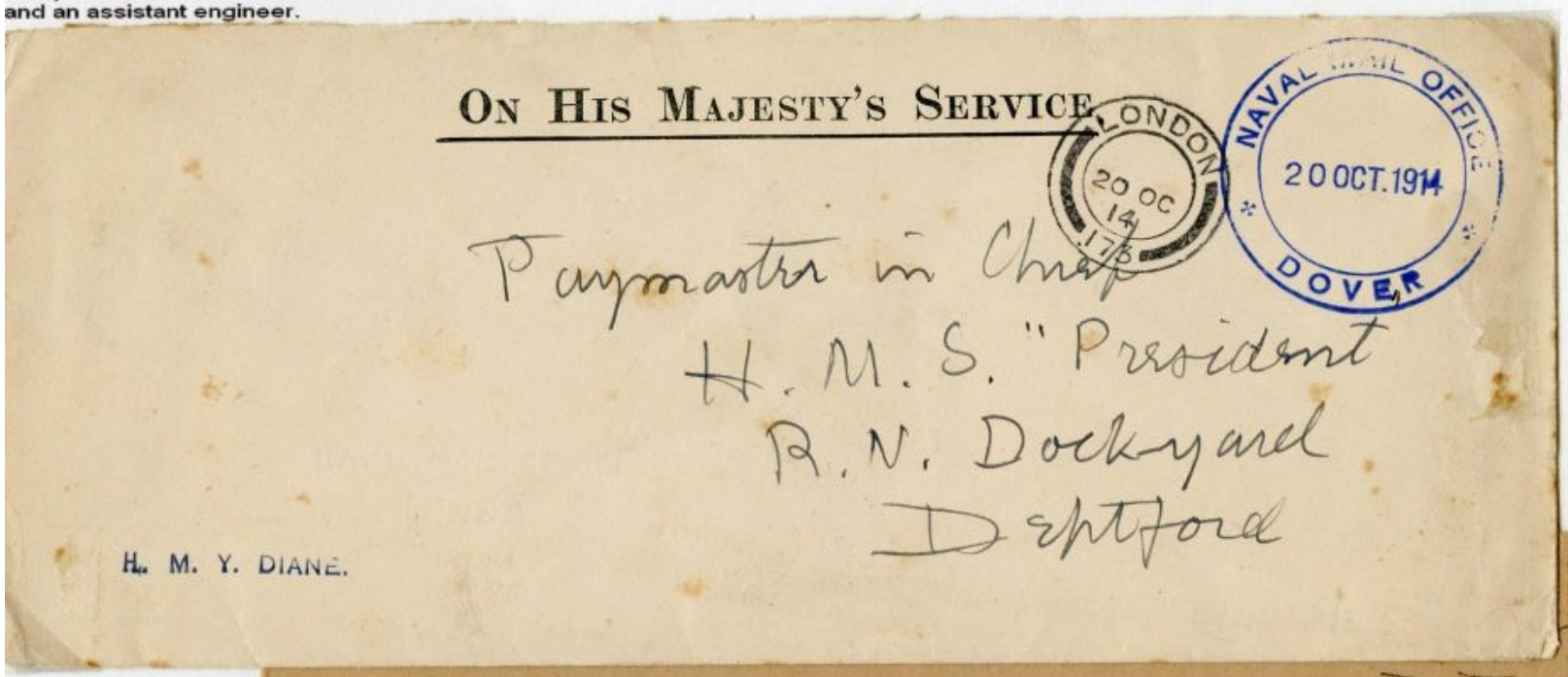


An 'If not delivered...' cachet on an item from the Destroyer Base at Port Edgar, a large anchorage on the south shore of the Firth, located between the Forth Road Bridge and the Queensferry Crossing.

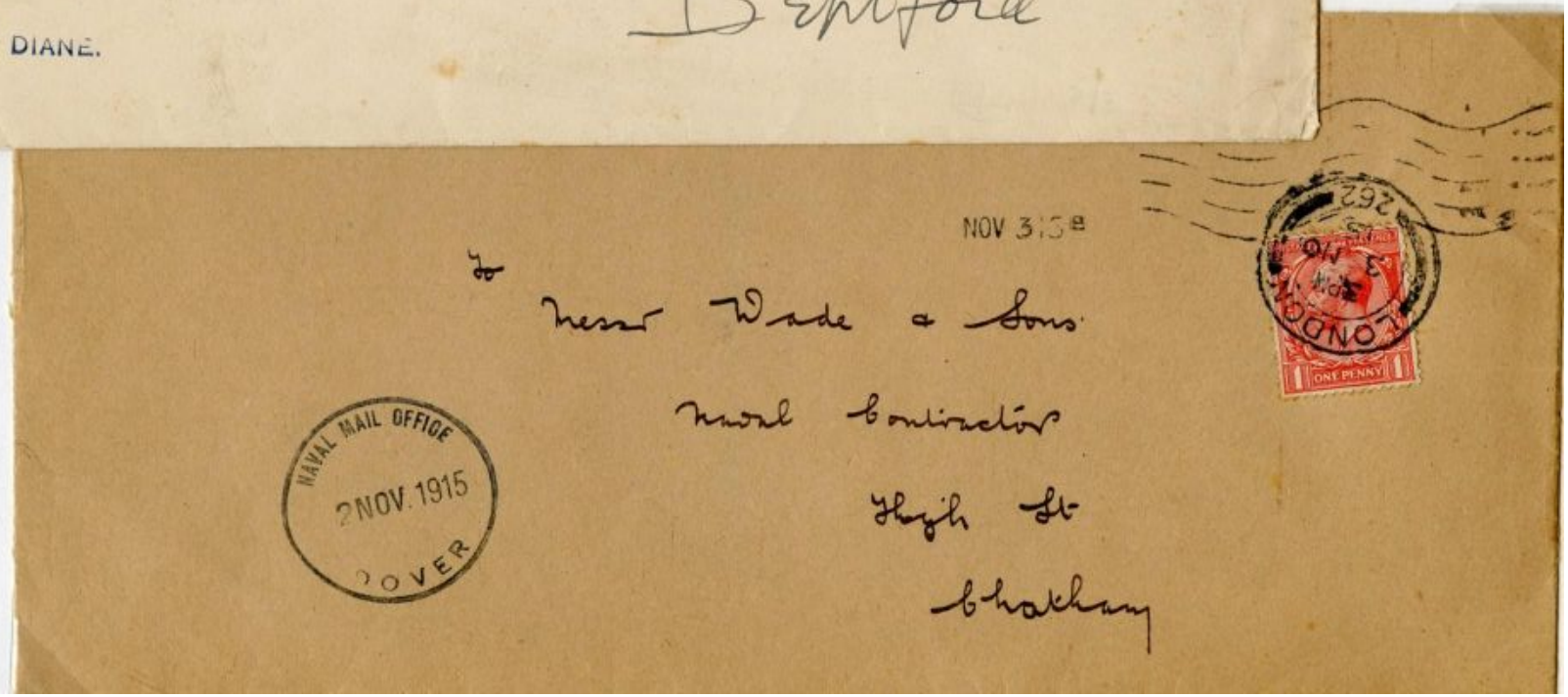
From HM Yacht Diane, one of the small craft of the Auxiliary Patrol. She was commanded by Captain (retd.) W.Vansittart Howard, with an officer complement of three RNR sub-lieutenants and an assistant engineer.

THE DOVER COMMAND

Gould's PC46 ?

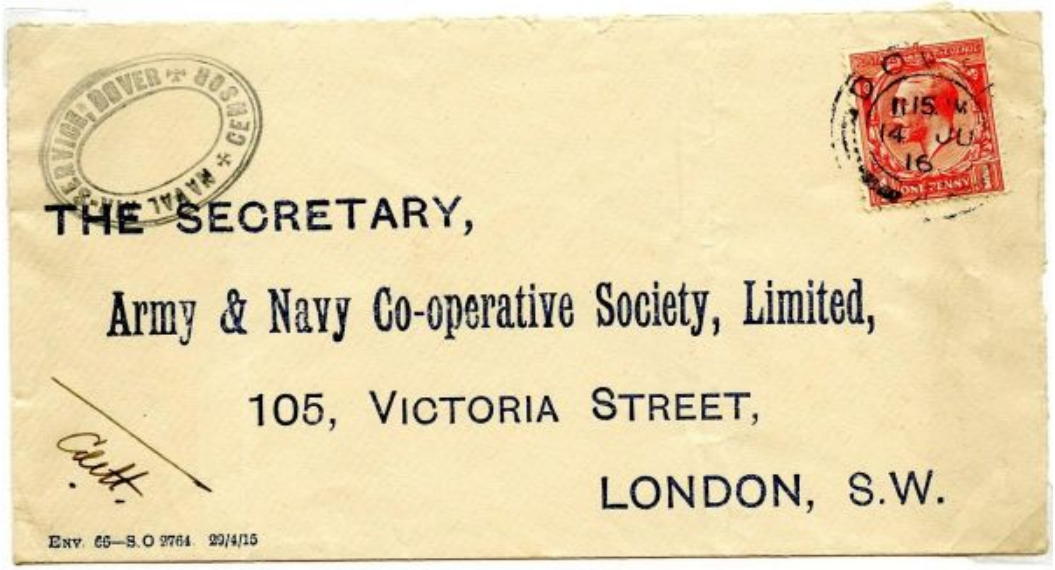


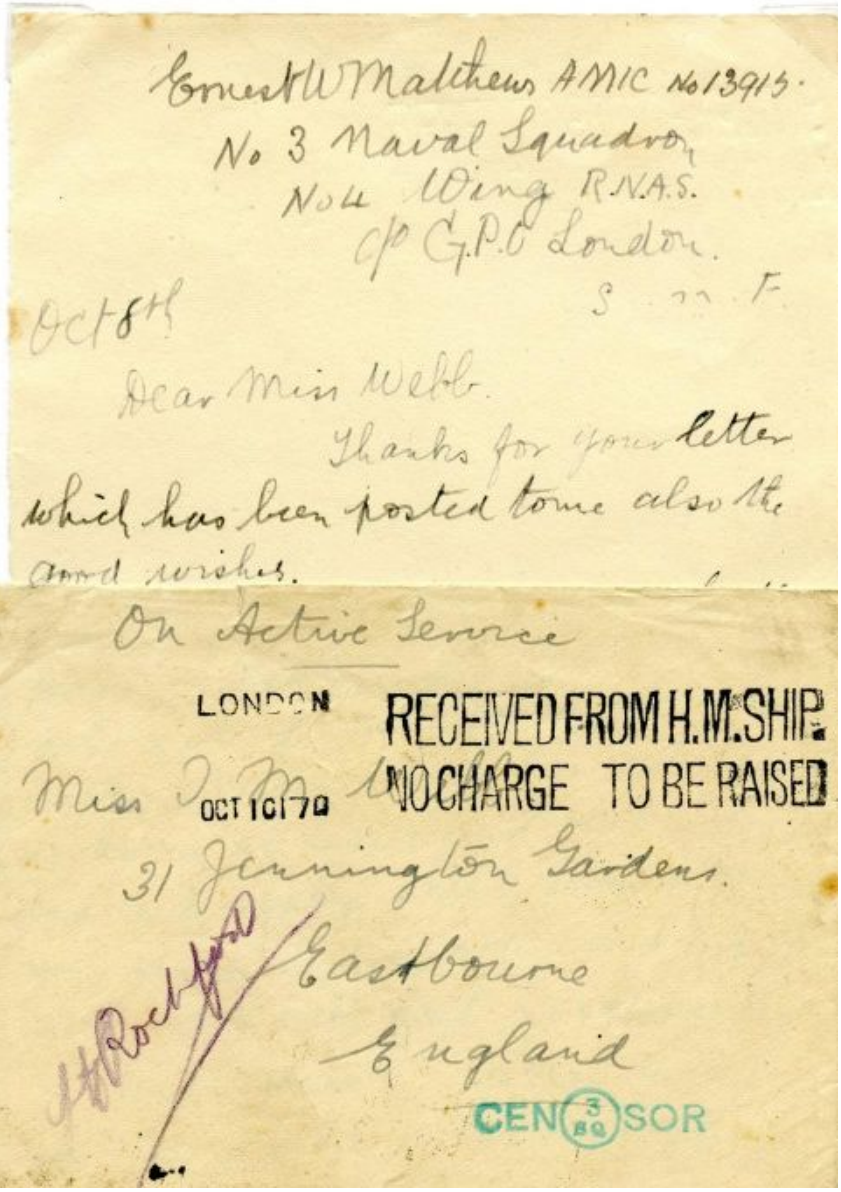
Gould's PC45 ?



The Royal naval Air Service in the Dover Command.

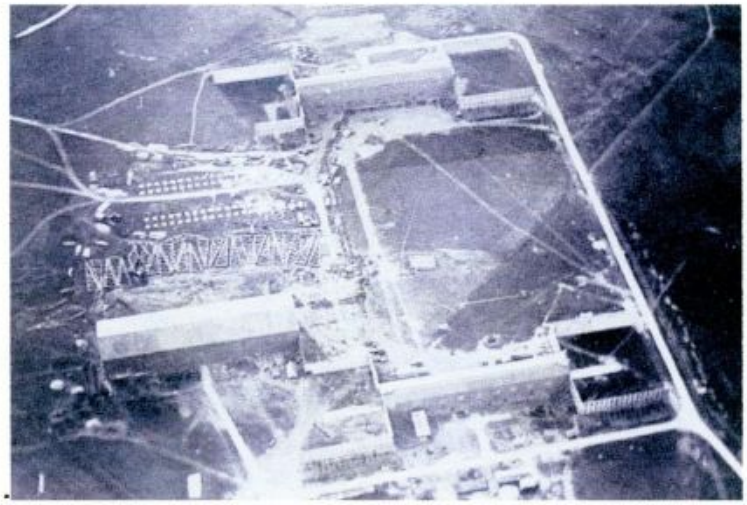
Censor 2A28





The RNAS units in France came under the Dover Command. This is from No.3 Squadron, stationed at Bray Dunes in October 1917, equipped with Sopwith Camel biplanes.

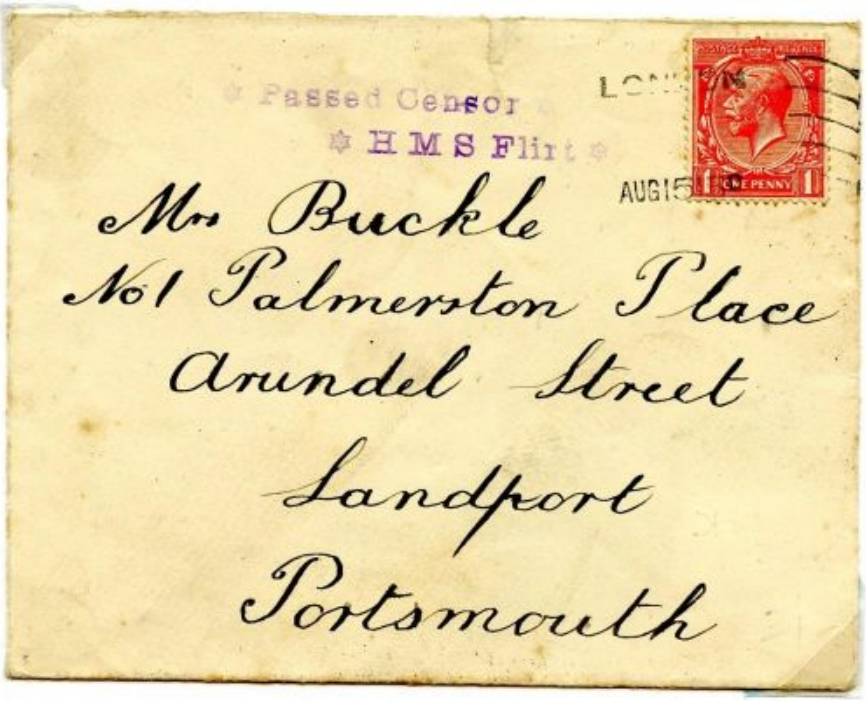
C.I.Roach-Smith was a Flight Sub-Lt at the airship station at RNAS Capel-le-Ferne, situated on the cliff top about 2 kms east of Folkstone



The 6th Destroyer Flotilla was part of the Dover Command, protecting marine traffic to and from France.

HMS *Flirt* was one of the original members of the 6th Flotilla. She was sunk by torpedo, in action with enemy destroyers on the night of 28th October 1916. The only survivors were those in one of the ship's boats, who were away rescuing the crew of a previously attacked drifter.

There was an Alfred Buckle, Leading Stoker, on board HMS *Flirt*. He did not survive the sinking,



CEN⑨SOR is thought to have been used by HMS Tartar, F class destroyer. She was mined off the French coast 24th June 1917. Her captain, Lt Cmdr G.K.Twiss, was killed, but the vessel was towed back to the UK.

P boats (ie Patrol boats) were introduced in the later part of the war as an anti-submarine measure. This item is from P24.

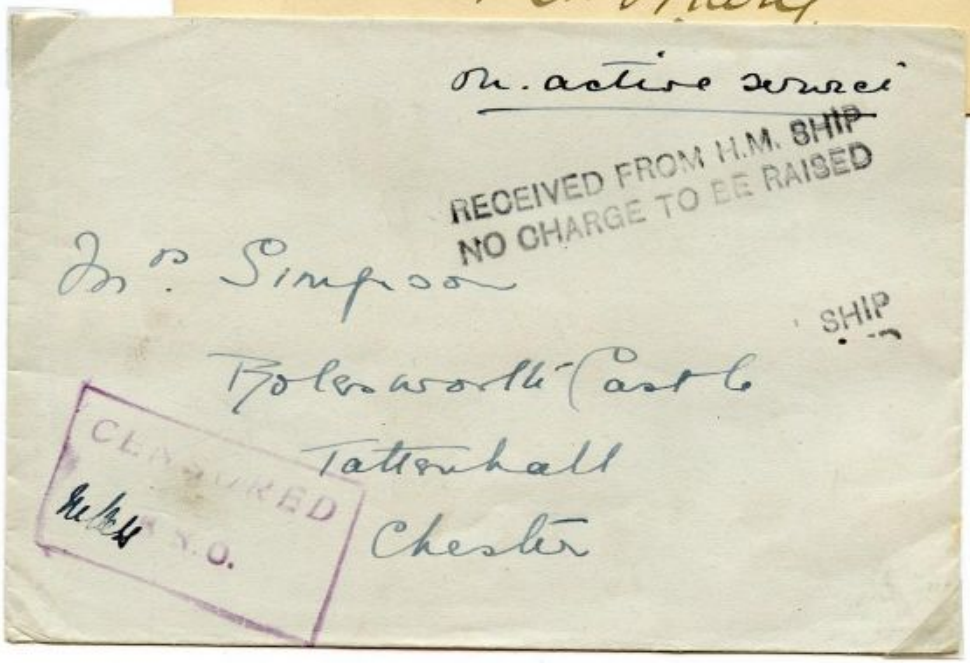
One of three examples known of the naval censor labels used at Dover in WW1.

The Auxiliary Patrol at Lerwick

The Auxiliary Patrol had a base at Lerwick in the Shetlands.

Variations of censor 3B28 from Lerwick, the lower example with the (mutilated) Victorian 223 obliterator (Goud DE14) at the 1 ½ d rate (ie after June 1918).

Gould's 3B21, known from the Lerwick base.

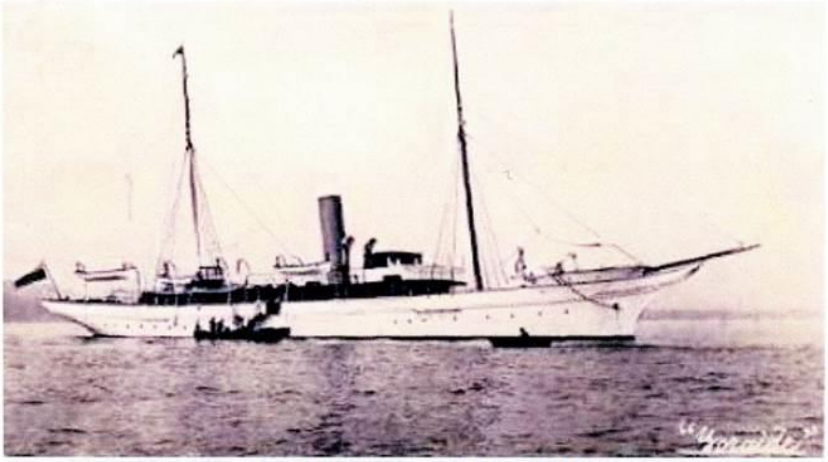


2. in the Orkneys

Censor 4C161 of HMS *Zaria*, built for Elder Dempster in 1904, 4816 tons. Hired 26/11/14, and was the Auxiliary Patrol depot ship at Longhope from April 1915-July 1919.

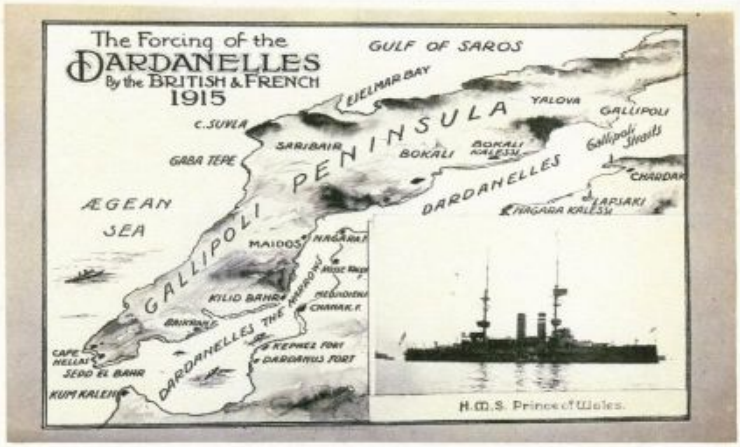
HMS *Venetia* was a hired yacht, used initially as an Auxiliary Patrol depot ship, and subsequently as a seagoing vessel participating in the Patrol.. The censor's intials are probably those of Lt Cmdr Harold Swithinbank, RNR, the commanding officer. This censor mark is not listed in Gould.

HMS's *Zoraide* and *Rhiannon* were armed yachts in the auxiliary patrol, the former (judging from the postmark) perhaps based at a port on the Firth of Forth. Censors 1A122 and 1A94 respectively.



HMS Zoraide around 1917

THE ROYAL NAVY AT THE DARDANELLES, 1915



From the pre-dreadnought battle-ship HMS *Prince of Wales* (censor 7A18), one of the vessels supplying gunfire support to the troops.

HMS *Irresistable* was sunk by enemy shell fire during the bombardment of March 18th.

From the only super-dreadnought to take part in the Dardanelles operations, HMS *Queen Elizabeth* (censor 5E1). The text is interesting, dated 27th March, nine days after the bombardment of March 18th.

'..... there is no need to tell you where I am. I expect you have seen it in the papers. We had a fine victory of the 18th of this month. We paid rather heavily for it. Lost 2 of our own ships and 1 Frenchman. Will write a letter as soon as I can get some paper.....'

As well as *Irresistible*, the British lost another battleship, HMS *Ocean*, and the French lost *Bouvet*, also a battleship.

Censor 3A46: EMWH was Staff Surgeon Edward M.W.Hearn, He was appointed to HMS *Manica*, a kite balloon ship at the Dardanelles wef 10th April 1915.

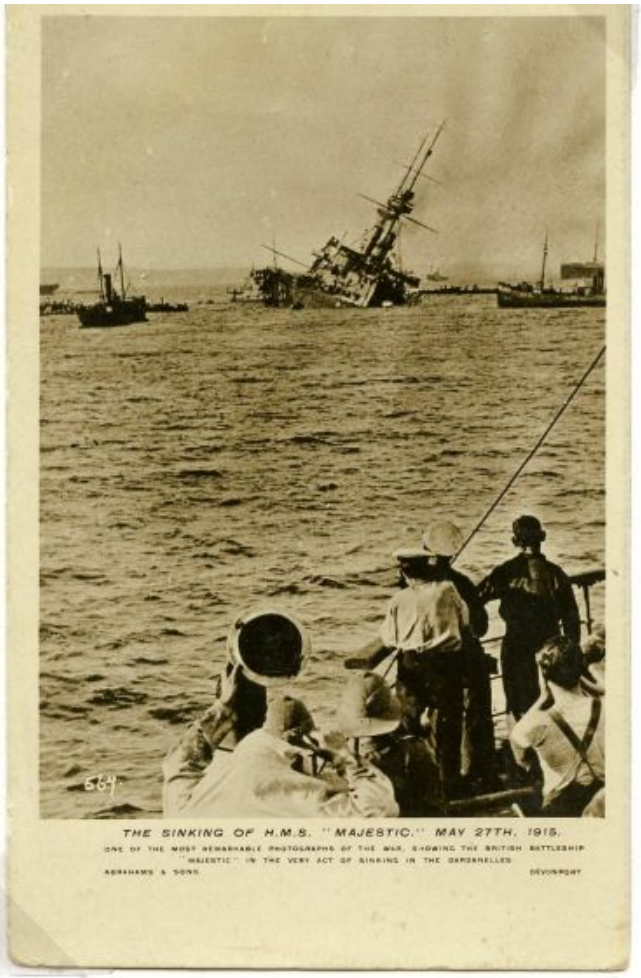
HMS *Manica* was a British cargo steamship that became the first kite balloon ship of the Royal Naval Air Service. She saw active service in the Dardanelles Campaign of 1915 directing the fire of the supporting ships at Anzac Cove.

Censor 5A80, used by the office of the SNO Mudros, Rear Admiral (later Admiral of the Fleet Lord) Wester Wemyss.

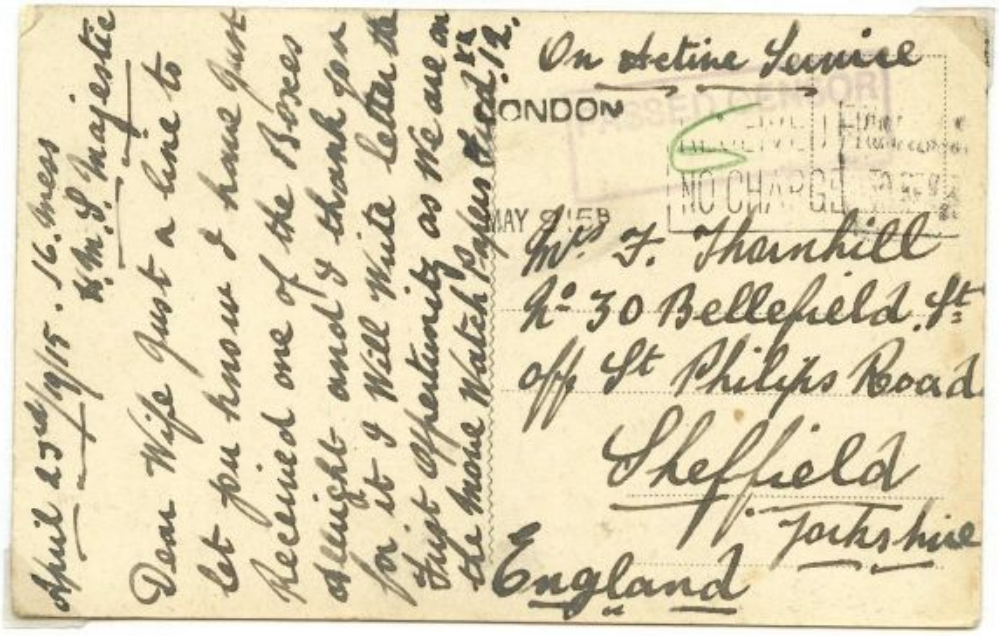
HM Submarine E15:

On 17th April 1915, *E1*
entered the Dardanelles an
ran aground because of th
singular oceanograph
conditions – not understoo
at the time. A shell from th
Turkish batteries penetrate
the conning tower, killing th
commander and six crew. Th
rest were taken prisone
including, apparently ER
William Norman. The on
interpretable endorsement c
the card below indicates th
he has been repatriated.

German and Turkish personnel inspecting E15 after recovery.



The battleship HMS *Majestic* was also sunk during the campaign.On 27 May 1915, around 0645 hours, Commander Otto Hersing of the German submarine *U-21* fired a single torpedo through the defensive screen of destroyers and anti-torpedo nets, striking *Majestic* and causing a huge explosion. The ship began to list to port and in nine minutes had capsized in 54 feet (16 m) of water, killing 49 men.Her masts hit the mud of the sea bottom, and her upturned hull remained visible for many months. There is a connection between *Majestic* and *E15*.On 18 April, she fired on the abandoned British submarine *E15* aground near Fort Dardanos and in danger of being captured; two picket boats, one from *Majestic* and one from *Triumph*, destroyed *E15* with torpedoes.


April 25th/1915. 16. Mess
H.M.S. Majestic
Dear Wife just a line to
let you know I have just
received one of the 15 boxes
of cigs and I thank you
for it I will write letter the
first opportunity as we are on
the move Watch papers that.
On Active Service
LONDON
MAY 9 1915
NO CHARGE
Mrs F. Thornhill
No 30 Bellefield St
off St Philips Road
Sheffield
Yorkshire
England

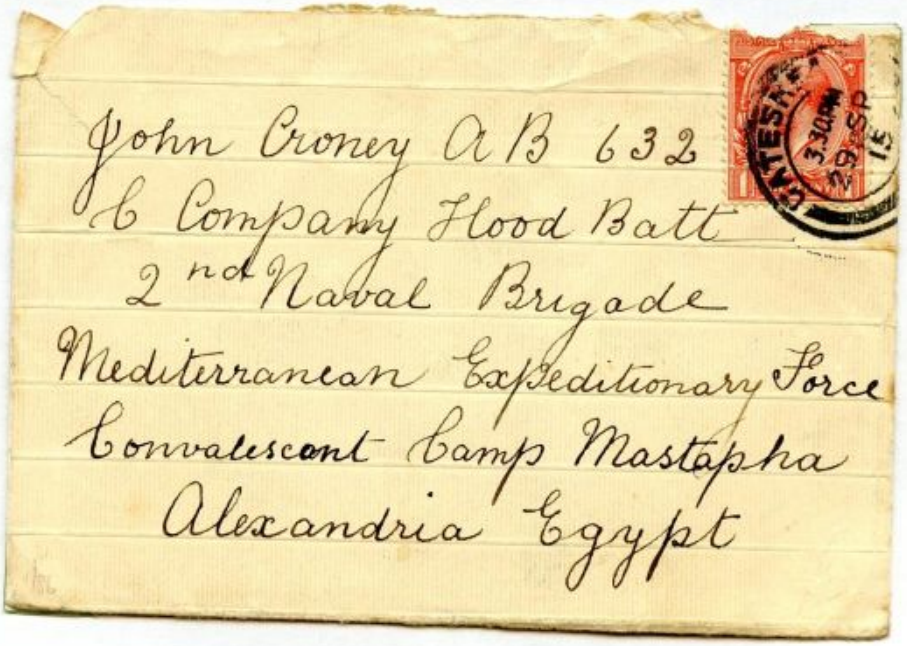
This postcard is from HMS *Majestic* five weeks before she was sunk. The censor mark is Gould 5E12. The text is worth reading, dated two days before the Gallipoli landings.

The Royal Naval Division at The Dardanelles

The Collingwood Battalion landed on Gallipoli on May 30th 1915. They went into action on June 4th, and suffered 500 casualties in an offensive against the Haricot Redoubt.

FPO D.N.L. of the Royal Naval Division Headquarters: it was located at Cape Helles between September and December 1915. Censor no.2/2562 of the RN Division HQ. Backstamped London, 20th November 1915.

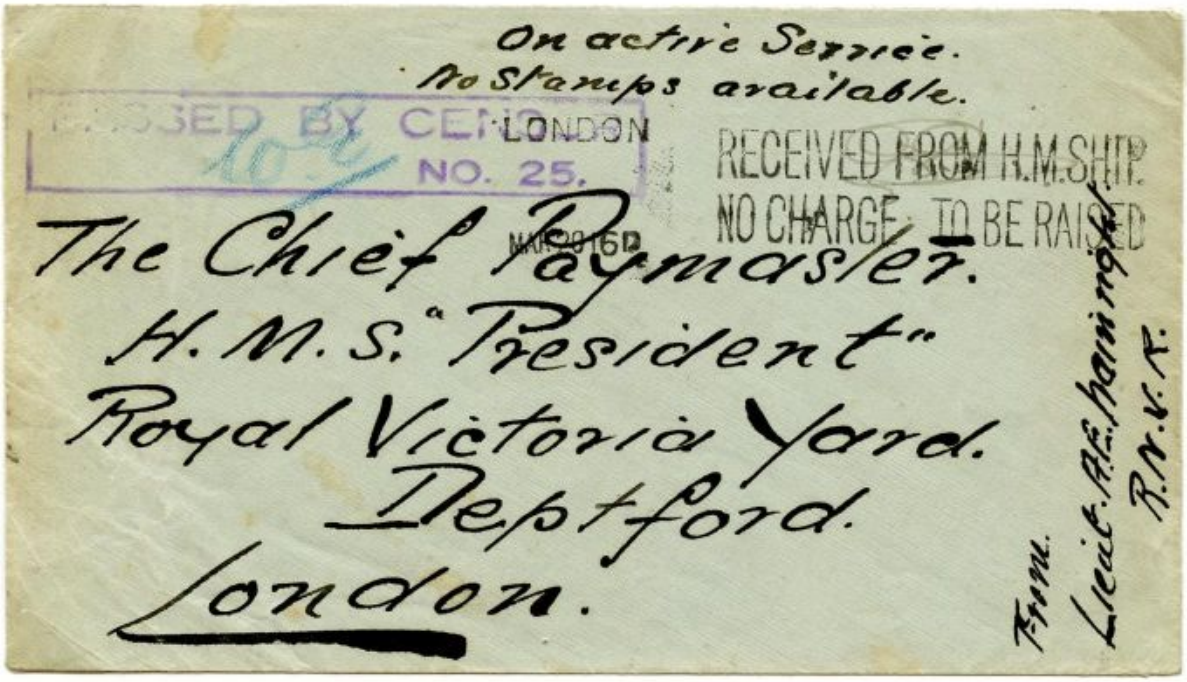
FPO N.L.2 of the 2nd Naval Brigade, located at Cape Helles between May and November 1915. The card is froma private in a machine gun section of the Royal Marines. The Royal Marine Brigade, which had been using FPO NL3 was amalgamated with the 2nd Naval Brigade on 2nd August 1915.



The Royal Navy in East Africa

The British Tanganyika Squadron

A British naval party, equipped with two gunboats (named *Mimi* and *Toutou* (!)), was despatched to Lake Tanganyika to dispose of several lake steamers (one of which was named *Kingani*) which had been armed by the Germans with equipment and personnel from the Konigsberg. They arrived on the Lake in October 1915, and their task was completed by March 1916.


On active Service.
No Stamps available.
PASSED BY CENSOR
LONDON
NO. 25.
RECEIVED FROM H.M.SHIP.
NO CHARGE TO BE RAISED
MAR 1916
The Chief Paymaster.
H.M.S. "President"
Royal Victoria Yard.
Deptford.
London.
Frm.
Lieut. R.A.F. Wainwright
R.N.V.R.

This letter was written by one of the officers, Lt.Wainwright, RNVR, and the censor mark is initialled by a fellow officer, Asst. Paymaster W.Eastwood, RNVR – see the right hand picture below.

Preparing to attack the *Kingani*. (above)

Eastwood and Marapandi with the baby chimpanzee, Josephine.

A remarkable item, from Brighton in June 1915 to a Miss Blackburne at Zanzibar where the label was presumably applied. One interpretation is that she was interned by the Germans on the mainland (hence **D**eutch **O**st **A**frika); perhaps arrangements were in place for mail for such people to be forwarded after handling (in Zanzibar – hence the additional Zanzibar stamps) by authorities under (Royal) Naval administration – hence the naval censor (Gould 2A24) cancelling the stamps.

The Royal Navy in North Russia

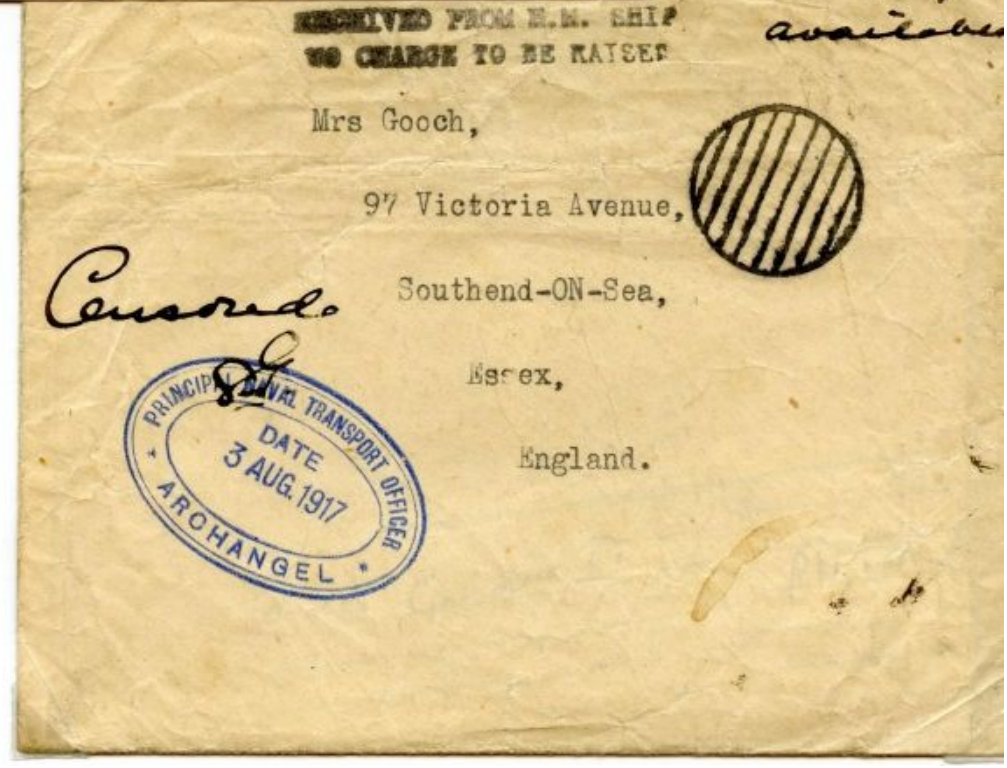
Censor X11 is known with APO PB1 from Murmansk. Part of the message reads: '....get on very well with the Russian people....'. Gould 4A type censor, unlisted so far. Postmark is RFHMS NCTBR, September 6th 1918. The picture side depicts the entrance to the Summer Gardens in Petrograd.

ПОЧТОВАЯ КАРТОЧКА—CARTE POSTALE.

Мѣсто для письма.

Мѣсто для адреса.

Мѣсто для марки.



RECEIVED FROM H.M. SHIP
ON CHARGE TO BE KAISER

Mrs Gooch,

97 Victoria Avenue,

Southend-ON-Sea,

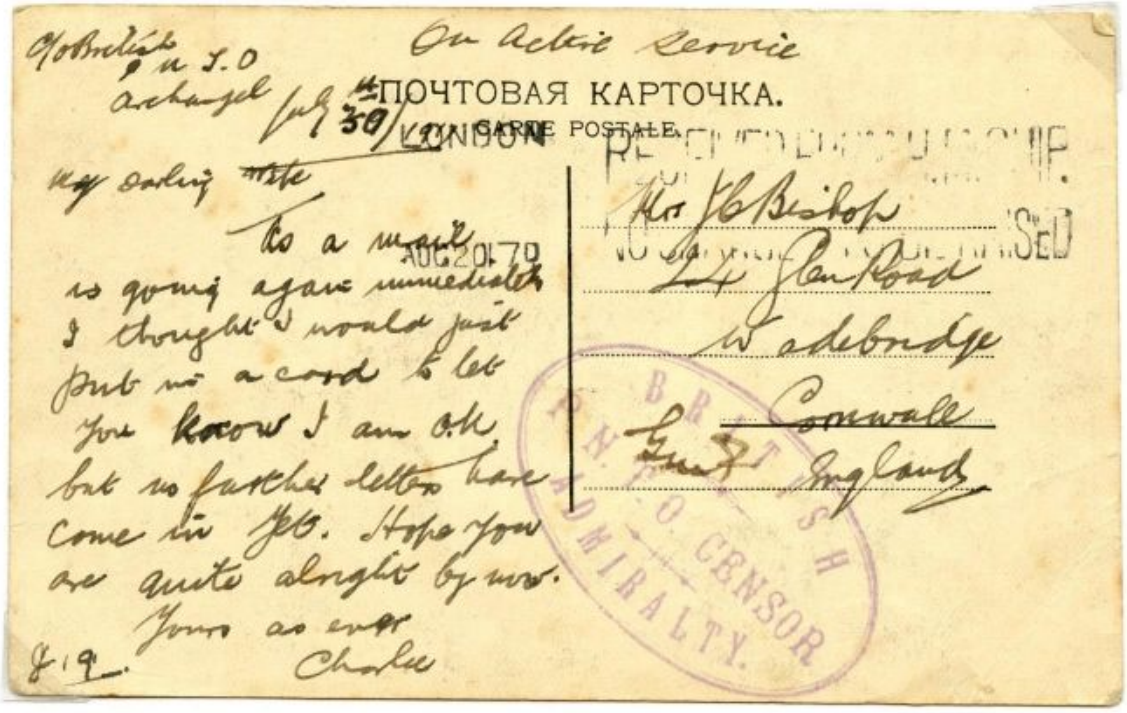
Essex,

England.

Censored

PRINCIPAL NAVAL TRANSPORT OFFICER
DATE 3 AUG. 1917
ARCHANGEL

no stamps available



An unambiguous censor mark, (Gould 7C60) apparently used in the office of the Principal Naval Transport Officer in Archangel. The picture side shows an imposing civic building in Archangel.

The Royal Navy in the Adriatic: the War against Austria-Hungary.

Italy declared war against Austria-Hungary on 24th May 1915. The Austrian submarines had to be prevented from leaving the Adriatic. To this end, a net barrage was constructed across the Straits of Otranto, patrolled by drifters supported by motor launches from the Adriatic Motor Launch Flotilla at Brindisi.

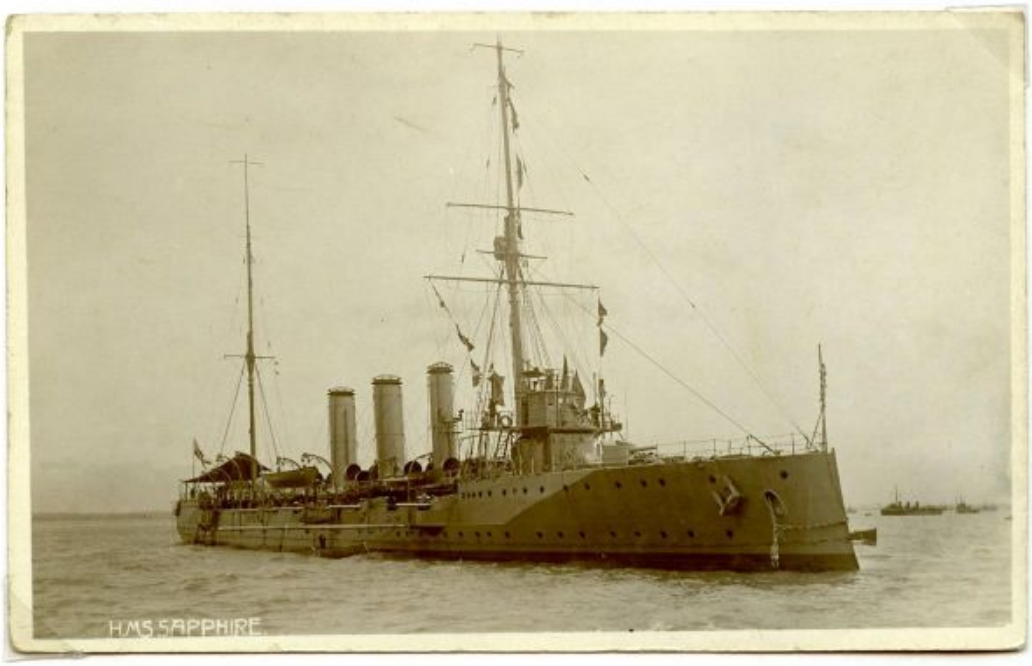
Censor is Gould's 2A26:

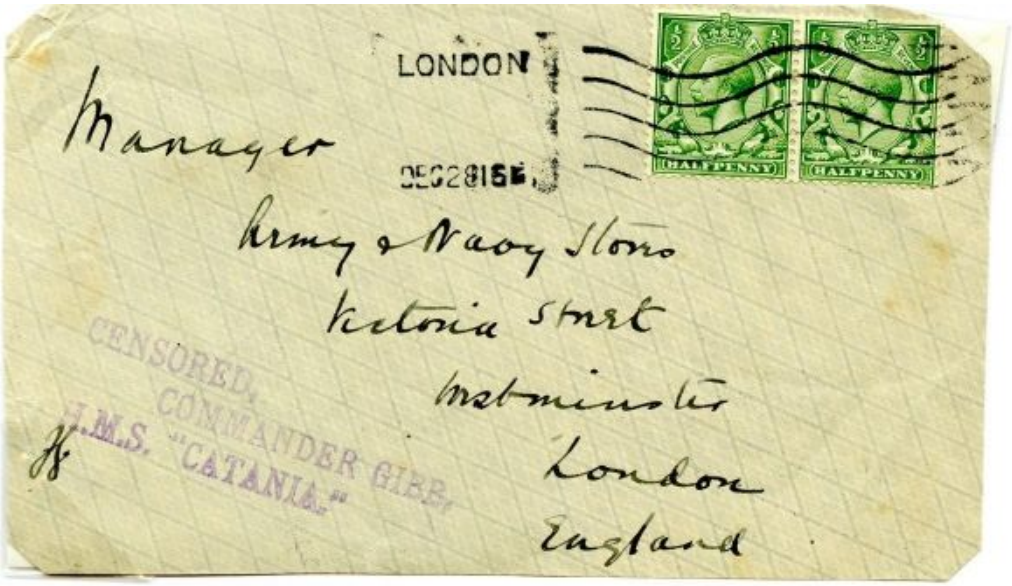
CENSORED BY
SENIOR OFFICER
ADRIATIC M.L. PATROL

Two items from Lt.A.V.Pumphrey, RNVR, in command of ML466 at this time. Censor 6D10.

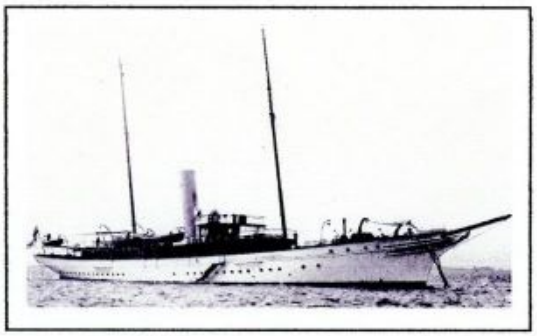
And this mark is 6B31.

A squadron of light cruisers were stationed at Brindisi to assist the Italian navy with their blockade of the Adriatic, and help with convoy escort. One of the first of these cruisers was HMS *Sapphire*.



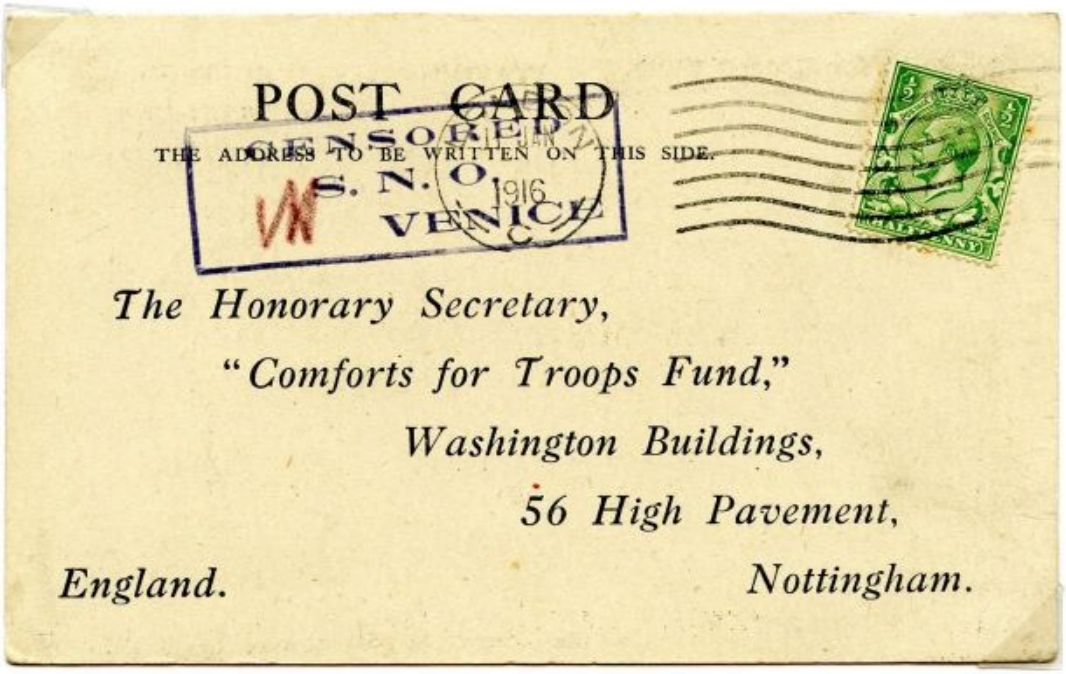


HMS *Catania*, hired yacht, was th depot vessel for th ML flotillas Taranto, on th western, coast the heel of Ital Taranto is muc larger than Otrant on the eastern side



This naval censor, under the army censor, is unlisted by Gould. The signature appears to be that of Lt. W.Lowcock, the CO of ML 367. APO S100 was at Taranto, on the western coast of the heel of Italy.

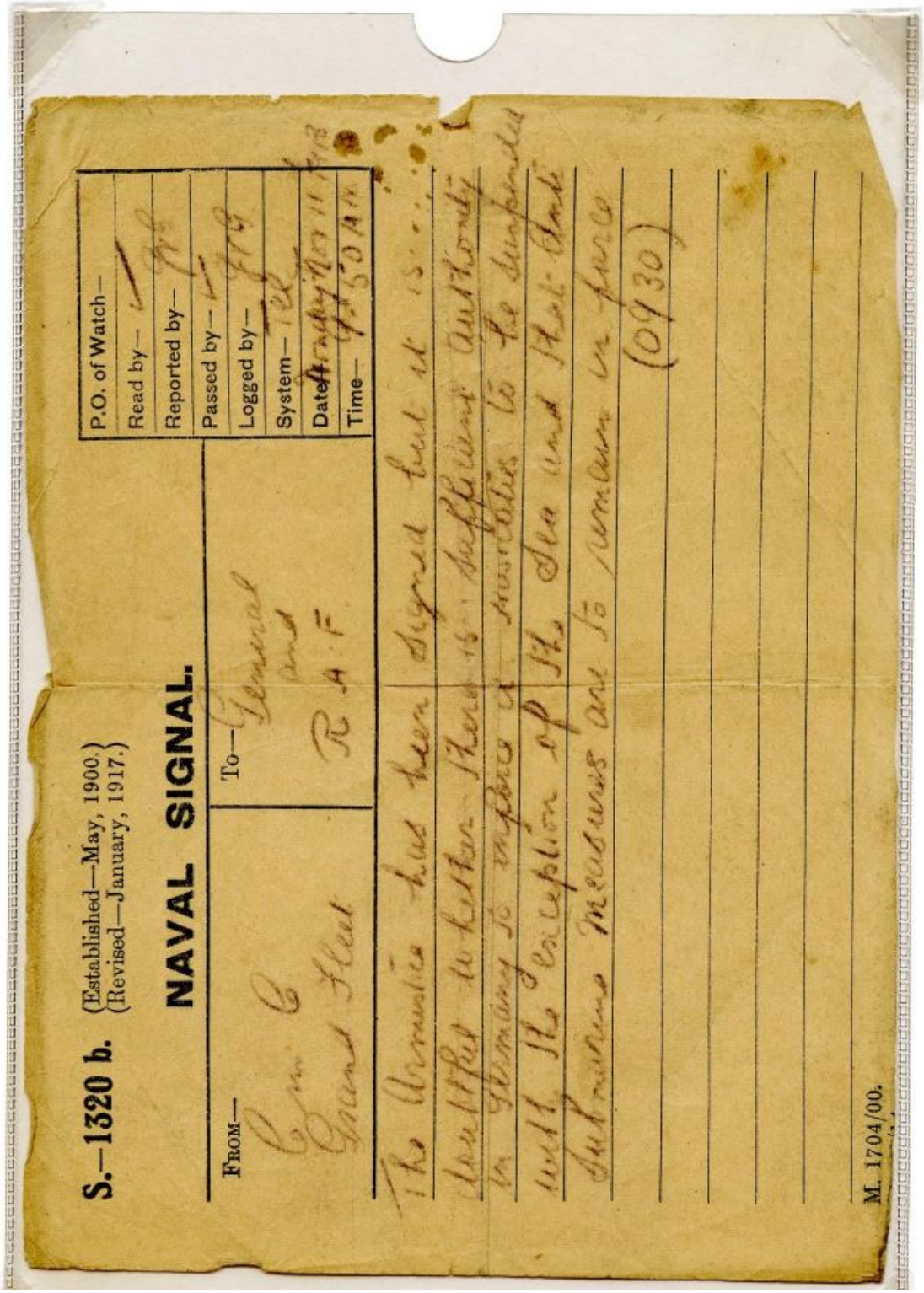
Venice: A naval air station was established at Venice. Slipways were built at Poveglia Island in the Venice Lagoon from which seaplanes could, when the time came, start on their missions to the Austrian bases at Pola and Fiume.


POST CARD
THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE.
CENSORED
S. N. O.
VENICE
1916

The Honorary Secretary,
"Comforts for Troops Fund,"
Washington Buildings,
56 High Pavement,
England. Nottingham.

The Armistice, and the Suspension of Hostilities at Sea.

This is a copy of the signal broadcast by the C-in-C Grand Fleet (Admiral Beatty) announcing the signing of the Armistice, and the doubt about the German ability to implement it - '..... Anti Submarine measures are to remain in force.' The message is timed at 0930 on November 11th 1918. The ship from which this copy was rescued is, sadly, unknown.



S.—1320 b. (Established—May, 1900. Revised—January, 1917.)

NAVAL SIGNAL.

FROM— C in C Grand Fleet

TO— General and R.A.F.

The Armistice has been signed but it is doubtful to what extent Germany is able to implement the suspension of hostilities with the exception of the Fleet and Flotillas but anti submarine measures are to remain in force

(0930)

P.O. of Watch—
Read by—
Reported by—
Passed by—
Logged by—
System—
Date— Monday Nov 11 1918
Time— 9.30 AM

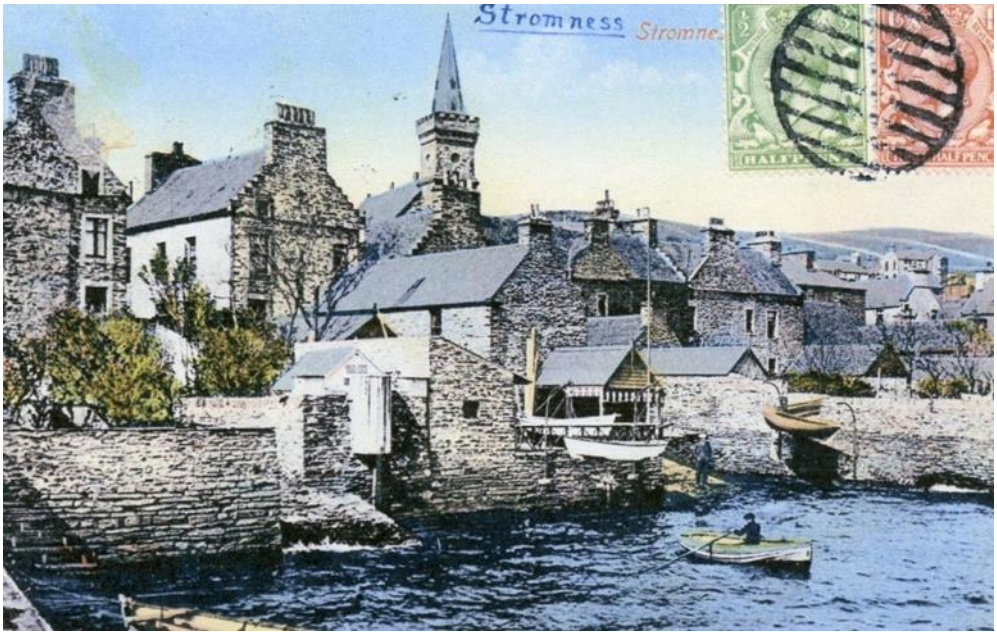
M. 1704/00.

The dreadnought battleship SMS *Kaiser* was unable to put to sea to join the main internment 'parade' on 21st November, but put in to Scapa Flow four days later on the 25th.

A picture postcard, unused, portraying SMS Konigsberg arriving in British waters on 16th November 1918. It is being watched over by a British airship.

Another picture postcard, this depicting the painting by Sir John Lavery, of the German naval delegation being informed by Admiral Beatty, on board his flagship, HMS Queen Elizabeth, of the terms with which they must comply.

The Guard Squadron



This is a postcard of Stromness in the Orkneys, from *HMS Royal Oak*, datelined 29th June 1919. *Royal Oak* was a dreadnought battleship with the Guard Squadron at Scapa Flow. The Squadron left for gunnery practice early on 21st June, but returned hurriedly when learning of The Scuttling of the interned German vessels, which started at noon that day.

It is written in Esperanto, dated the day before The Scuttle, and posted through FPOa – at this time on board HMS *Victorious* – the day after. This is the LKD for the FPOa MA4 cancellation.